ACS PRF
UNDERGRADUATE NEW INVESTIGATOR (UNI) RESEARCH GRANTS
ELIGIBILITY, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

1) ACS PRF Undergraduate New Investigator research grants are made to non-profit institutions within the U.S. for regularly appointed scientists/engineers whose research may be sponsored by ACS PRF in accordance with subsection (a) of Article SECOND of the Agreement of Transfer of Trust creating the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund (Transfer Agreement), dated October 25, 2000. To be eligible for an Undergraduate New Investigator research grant an investigator must:

Be a member of the faculty of a college or university within the United States in a department without a doctoral program; be within the first five years of their first academic appointment as a regular faculty member; have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. (however, an application may be submitted before the degree has been awarded); and be appointed at the rank of Assistant Professor. In addition, applicants must meet the following three criteria. It is assumed that tenure-track faculty meet these criteria.

a) The non-profit institution submitting the proposal must certify that the individual listed as a principal investigator on the cover page qualifies as a principal investigator under the institution’s policies.

b) In view of the long-standing goal of The ACS Petroleum Research Fund to involve undergraduate students in research, the principal investigator must be eligible to serve as the sole formal, official supervisor of undergraduate students.

c) The term of appointment of the principal investigator must promise reasonable continuity of service. The appointment should continue at least through the period of funding requested in the proposal.

2) ACS PRF Undergraduate New Investigator grants are $55,000 for a two-year period. This amount is exclusive of any added research supplements that might be recommended and authorized to further assist the principal investigator. ACS PRF grants do not include a contribution to institutional overhead or administrative charges. Shifts in budget category allocations require prior approval of ACS PRF.

3) The following limitations apply and do not change as a result of time extensions:

a) To provide the opportunity for full-time research during the summer months, the principal investigator may request a contribution to his or her summer salary, with an upper limit of $8,000 per grant year, including fringe benefits, to a maximum of $16,000.

b) Except for field work, travel expenses (including scientific meetings) shall not exceed $2,000 per grant year, or $4,000 total.

4) ACS PRF Undergraduate New Investigator grants must include support of undergraduate students in each year of the funded research. M.S.-seeking graduate students can be supported with salaries or stipends, but only if undergraduates are also supported by this grant. Funds may not be used for tuition or to support postdoctoral scholars, doctoral students, laboratory technicians, contractors, consultants or visiting faculty.

5) The institution, by acceptance of this grant, provides assurance that support normally provided by the institution for research of the faculty member will not be diminished.

6) At the end of each grant year, the grantee will submit a financial report, a technical progress update, and a personnel statement. Of the support given, funds remaining at the end of each grant year may be carried forward into the next in the same budget category. Upon expiration of the grant, a final technical report, a final financial report, and final personnel statement must be submitted. Any funds remaining must be returned to ACS unless a time extension has been authorized by the ACS Petroleum Research Fund. Time extensions may be approved for no more than two years beyond the original grant period, provided reporting requirements are up to date.

7) The Transfer Agreement, wherever applicable, and more specifically subsections (d), (e) and (f) of the Article SECOND thereof shall be complied with by the grantee institution accepting an ACS PRF grant. The reports required by said subsection (d), the publications required by said subsection (e), and a certified copy of any instrument of dedication required by subsection (f) of Article SECOND shall be submitted to the American Chemical Society by the grantee institution. A copy of said Transfer Agreement is attached hereto, is incorporated by reference, and wherever applicable shall be binding upon both the American Chemical Society and the grantee institution.

8) In order to comply with the precise requirements of subsection (e) of said Article SECOND of the Transfer Agreement, each publication prepared in connection with an ACS PRF grant, shall make acknowledgment for the support of this research to the donors of the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund. We strongly suggest the use of following language: “This work was supported by the donors of ACS Petroleum Research Fund under <Full Name of Grant Type> Grant <Number>.” Publications may add “<Initials> served as Principal Investigator on ACS PRF # that provided support for <Initials (student/postdocs)>.” (Example: “This work was supported by the donors of ACS Petroleum Research Fund under Undergraduate New Investigator Grant 1234-UNI14. A.B. served as Principal Investigator on ACS PRF 1234-UNI14 that provided support for C.D.”)

9) In compliance with subsection (f) of said Article SECOND of the Transfer Agreement, any patent which is taken out by or on behalf of the principal investigator or the grantee institution shall be dedicated to the public, royalty-free.

10) Acceptance of an ACS PRF Undergraduate New Investigator grant will be conditioned upon agreement by the grantee institution that in the event the principal investigator is unable for any reason to conduct the research proposed, the funds, if previously paid by the American Chemical Society, shall, upon demand, be returned in full to the Society, and further, that in the event the principal investigator is unable for any reason to continue with the research after it has commenced, this grant shall be terminated forthwith and the unexpended and unencumbered balance of any funds theretofore advanced shall be returned to the Society.

Rev 02/2024