BURST Scholars Program - Mentor Application (Summer 2027)

This is the **BURST Mentor** Application.

With your student, please thoroughly review all application requirements, guidelines, and rubric on the BURST Scholars website before applying. Both the student and faculty mentor must submit their own respective applications by the deadline to be considered for funding.

The deadline to submit this application is **Friday, February 19, 2027, at 11:59 PM PST**. No incomplete or late applications will be considered for funding.

If you have any questions about the application, please email ugresearch@sandiego.edu.

To equitably provide research support for all student/faculty pairs with highly-ranked applications, **each faculty mentor may receive a maximum of 2 BURST Awards and 2 STAR awards**.

* Indicates required question

1. **Email** *

2. **First Name** *

3. **Last Name** *

4. **BURST Eligibility: Students should not have previously participated in a substantial* faculty-mentored research or creative works experience in the field they are applying to. In some cases, students with previous research experience may apply to BURST in a field that is new to them.** *

Substantial is *defined as more than 200 hours of university-level research (for course credit, volunteered or paid), participation in a previous research program at USD (such as Keck, McNair, Beckman, STAR, BURST, Catalyst) or another institution. Students that have done extensive research, but are applying for a research experience in a new discipline may be eligible for BURST. Please consult your faculty mentor and OUR to determine if you are eligible for BURST.

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ I confirm that my student is eligible for BURST Scholars program. → Go to Section 2
- ◯ My student may not be eligible for the BURST Scholars program. → Go to Section 6 and end the form. *Skip to section 6 (BURST Scholars Program Eligibility)*

Mentor Applicant Information

5. **Department** *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Anthropology
- [ ] Accounting
- [ ] Art, Architecture, and Art History
- [ ] Biology
- [ ] Chemistry and Biochemistry
- [ ] Communication
- [ ] Computer Science
- [ ] Economics
- [ ] Electrical Engineering
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] English
- [ ] Environmental and Ocean Sciences
- [ ] Ethnic Studies
- [ ] Finance
- [ ] History
- [ ] Industrial and Systems Engineering
- [ ] Integrated Engineering
- [ ] Languages, Cultures and Literatures
- [ ] Marketing
- [ ] Mathematics
- [ ] Mechanical Engineering
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Neuroscience, Cognition and Behavior
- [ ] Philosophy
- [ ] Physics and Biophysics
- [ ] Political Science and International Relations
- [ ] Psychological Sciences
- [ ] Sociology
- [ ] Theatre
- [ ] Theology and Religious Studies
- [ ] Other: _____

6. **If you are co-mentoring this BURST project with another faculty member, list their name and department here (this is not common).** ***Remember they also need to fill out a form.***

_____

7. **Primary discipline of project** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Life and Physical Sciences
- Math, Engineering, and Computer Science
- Humanities
- Creative Works
- Social Sciences

8. **Secondary discipline of project (typically none)** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- none
- Life and Physical Sciences
- Math, Engineering, and Computer Science
- Humanities
- Creative Works
- Social Sciences

Student Applicant Information

To equitably provide research support for all student/faculty pairs with highly-ranked applications, each faculty mentor may receive a maximum of 2 BURST awards.

9. **BURST Student Applicant Name.** Write the name of your BURST student here. If you are applying for multiple students individually or a group, fill out a separate application for each student. *

_____

10. Is this a group project? If yes, indicate with how many total students are applying to STAR and BURST. If it is a group project, make sure to fill out this supplementary group application form as well. See the Interdisiciplinary and Group Projects page for more details. *

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ No
- ◯ Yes - 2 students *Skip to question 13*
- ◯ Yes - 3 students *Skip to question 13*
- ◯ Yes - 4 students *Skip to question 13*

Mentor Statement

11. **Mentor Statement** *

Instructions: Please write a project description and mentoring statement (**two-page limit in Arial 11-point font with 1-inch margins including figures and tables**; references are not included in this page limit) with the following components:

Brief Project Description (~.5 page)
Clear project goals for the BURST scholar to achieve during the summer period and an explanation of why the project is suitable for a student with no prior (substantial) training in research or creative works
The significance of the project should be understandable for a general educated audience
The details of the project are less important than articulating how the project is appropriate for the student's background

Mentoring Plan (~1.5 pages)
Explain how the student will be involved in the project throughout the summer. Describe logistics regarding student training, including skills you will help the BURST scholar develop to conduct the project, how often you will meet with the student, the nature of your interactions and meetings with the student (e.g., activities or topics to be discussed), and resources and support you will provide.
Detail how you will provide opportunities for professional development tailored to the BURST scholar's needs and potential educational/career goals.Describe your mentoring philosophy.
Explain how your mentorship is tailored to the individual scholar and how you will support the BURST scholar and provide a supportive environment that fosters student growth and success.
Show evidence that you have had intentional conversations with the student to learn about their goals, strengths, background, etc. and have thought carefully about how to mentor them to achieve success.

Planned Travel (1-3 sentences if applicable)
Discussion of how planned travel will fit into the mentoring plan.
You are generally expected to meet with the scholar weekly in-person (at minimum).
If you have extensive travel throughout the summer, you would likely not be able to meet the expectations of a BURST mentor.

Upload your Mentor Statement as a PDF here.

Files submitted:

12. **Disclosure of AI Use: If you used artificial intelligence in the creation of this proposal, please indicate the following:**
    1. The AI system's name
    2. The strategy for usage (edit grammar, generate ideas, etc)
    3. Prompts used
    4. A list of specific sections containing AI-derived text or ideas

Group Application

13. **Please list all other students who are in the group application** *
    Mentors should complete a mentor application (BURST and/or STAR) for each student involved in the group project.

14. **Please complete the required Group Project Supplement and review the group project guidelines on our website.** *

    Check all that apply.

    - [ ] I have completed the Group Project Supplement.

Skip to question 11

BURST Scholars Program Eligibility

Due to your previous response, we have determined that your student is not eligible for the BURST Scholars program. This program is designed for students with little to no research or creative work experience in the field they are applying to. Given that they have substantial experience in your particular field, you should have them apply for another program such as the STAR Scholars program.

Please consult with your student and OUR for recommended next steps.

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