BURST Scholars Program - Student Application (Summer 2027)

This is the **BURST Student** Application.

With your faculty mentor, 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.

* 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 I am eligible for BURST Scholars program. → Go to Section 2 *Skip to question 5*
- I 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)*

Scholar Applicant Information

5. **Major** *

All USD undergraduate majors are eligible for the BURST Scholars program. If you don't see your major listed, please type it out in the fillable box at the bottom of the list.

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Undeclared
- [ ] Accountancy
- [ ] Anthropology
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art History
- [ ] Biochemistry
- [ ] Biology
- [ ] Biophysics
- [ ] Business Accounting
- [ ] Business Administration
- [ ] Business Analytics
- [ ] Business Economics
- [ ] Chemistry
- [ ] Cognition and Behavior
- [ ] Communication
- [ ] Computer Science
- [ ] Economics
- [ ] Electrical Engineering
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] English
- [ ] Environmental and Ocean Sciences
- [ ] Ethnic Studies
- [ ] Finance
- [ ] French and Francophone Studies
- [ ] History
- [ ] Individualized Major
- [ ] Industrial and Systems Engineering
- [ ] Integrated Engineering
- [ ] Interdisciplinary Humanities
- [ ] International Business
- [ ] International Relations
- [ ] Italian Studies

- [ ] Liberal Studies
- [ ] Mathematics
- [ ] Marketing
- [ ] Mechanical Engineering
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Neuroscience
- [ ] Philosophy
- [ ] Physics
- [ ] Political Science
- [ ] Psychology
- [ ] Real Estate
- [ ] Sociology
- [ ] Spanish
- [ ] Supply Chain Management
- [ ] Theatre
- [ ] Theology and Religious Studies
- [ ] Visual Arts

6. **Year at USD** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ 1st year
- ◯ 2nd year
- ◯ 3rd year
- ◯ 4th year
- ◯ 5th year
- ◯ Transfer

7. **Anticipated Graduation Year** *

If you don't see your expected graduation date on this list, you may not be eligible for this program.

Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Fall 2027
- Spring 2028
- Fall 2028
- Spring 2029
- Fall 2029
- Spring 2030
- Fall 2030
- Spring 2031

Faculty Mentor Information

8. **Faculty Mentor Name** *

List the full name of your faculty mentor. If you are being co-mentored by two faculty members, list both of their names here (this is not common).

Please completely spell out your mentor's name, excluding any titles such as "Dr." or "PhD" from their name.

9. **Faculty Mentor Department** *

Select the department of your faculty mentor. If you are being co-mentored by two faculty members, select both of their departments here (this is not common).

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: _____

10. **Primary discipline of project (ask your mentor)** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

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

11. **Secondary discipline of project (typically none - ask your mentor)** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

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

12. **Is this part of a group project? (ask your mentor - they will let you know!)** *

A group project is a project in which 2 or more students are required to be funded by STAR or BURST for the success of the project. See Interdisciplinary and Group Projects page for more details.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

Scholar Statement of Interest

13. **Scholar Statement of Interest** *

Instructions: Please write a statement (one-page limit, Arial, 11-point font, 1" margins) that addresses the following:

1. **Why the BURST program?**
Why are you interested in gaining experience and training in research or creative works through the BURST program?
How will participation in this specific program help you achieve your potential educational and/or career goals?

2. **Learning about your project from your mentor**:
Explain how this specific project connects to your own interests, academic background, and/or goals.
What was something that surprised you about the way your mentor described your project?
What about this particular research area and day-to-day activity/activities excite or motivate you?
What is something you don't understand about your project and/or that you want to learn more about?

Include the two categories above as subheaders in your statement to ensure each prompt is clearly addressed. Click here to use our pre-made BURST statement template. You are not required to take up the whole page; this is the maximum limit offered. Your statement should demonstrate both your general motivation for participating in undergraduate research and your enthusiasm for the proposed project you'll be working on.

Upload your Scholar Statement of Interest as a PDF here.

Files submitted:

14. **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

Demographic Information

Your responses to the following questions are NOT used in the evaluation process for your BURST award.

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your eligibility for other research opportunities and scholarships and will not be provided to the review committee or used in the evaluation process for your BURST award.

15. *What is the highest degree you are interested in obtaining?* * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Bachelors
- Masters
- PhD
- MD
- JD
- Other

16. ***Do you receive the Pell Grant?*** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

17. ***Are you a first-generation college student? (Find the definition here.)*** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

18. **Are you a transfer student?** *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

19. ***Please indicate your race/ethnicity. Are you Hispanic or Latino?*** *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

20. ***In addition, please select one or more of the following groups to describe yourself:*** *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] American Indian/Alaska Native (Including all original people of the Americas)
- [ ] Asian
- [ ] Asian, Filipino
- [ ] Asian, Indian
- [ ] Black or African American
- [ ] Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (original peoples)
- [ ] White
- [ ] White, Eastern European
- [ ] White, Middle Eastern
- [ ] Prefer not to answer
- [ ] Other: _____

BURST Scholars Program Eligibility

Due to your previous response, we have determined that you are 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 your substantial experience in your field, you should consider applying for another program that can support you such as the STAR Scholars program.

Please consult with your faculty mentor and OUR for recommended next steps.

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