

Student Testimonial

“One of the most rewarding aspects of this collaboration was my improved perception of my capabilities as a historian and a researcher. Professor Mandel never hesitated to hand over to me critical aspects of the research, and her confidence in me dramatically improved my own self-confidence. [I learned to] identify key arguments and supportive evidence in lengthy academic literature. This capability will certainly serve me well in all of my future academic and professional pursuits.”

Kathryn Boonstra, Brown '09

Faculty Testimonial

“The UTRA program has been a wonderful source of support for students and projects in my lab, and has often facilitated the development of new research directions. ... The UTRA program allows students to delve deeply enough into a project to fully take ownership of it and fosters critical and independent decision-making. Team UTRA awards have been an invaluable catalyst for establishing a new multidisciplinary collaboration with Prof. Mark Johnson (MCB) that has engaged biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and engineering concentrators.”

Professor Amit Basu (Chemistry)

Application Deadlines:

Spring UTRA: November 16, 2011

Summer UTRA: February 8, 2012

Fall UTRA: May 1, 2012

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Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards (UTRA)



BROWN

The Office of the Dean of the College

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What is an UTRA?

Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards (UTRAs) provide faculty and students with opportunities to work closely on a research or course development project during the summer or academic year.

UTRAs support undergraduates whose creativity and curiosity suggest their promise as future research scholars and college professors. Faculty benefit from the assistance and perspectives undergraduates bring to their work.

Benefits

UTRAs allow students in any discipline and in their first through fourth year to:

- Explore an issue or topic of interest
- Get to know a faculty member by collaborating on important research or teaching projects
- Develop problem-solving and research skills, as well as a more comprehensive understanding of the research subject
- Have an impact on a Brown course or in a larger field of study
- Receive a \$3000 stipend for summer research in the US; \$3500 for summer research abroad; \$1000 for research during the semester



Award Categories

UTRAs require a full-time commitment for 10 weeks in the summer and 10 hours per week for 12 weeks during the academic year.

The Research Collaboration Award allows students and faculty to collaborate on a research project, which may originate from the faculty or the student.

The Teaching Collaboration Award provides members of the faculty with student collaborators for research that precedes the creation or restructuring of a course.

The Team UTRA supports 2 - 4 students in the summer or up to 2 students during the semester to work with one or more faculty on research or curriculum development. The application should discuss the specific contributions each member can make to the team so that the whole has the potential to be greater than the sum of its parts.

The International UTRA supports collaborative research or teaching projects abroad during the summer only. Applications to work abroad will be considered only when both the faculty and the student are on site together.



Applying for an UTRA

Successful applicants have had extensive conversations about the project prior to submitting the application.

- Identify a research or teaching area that is of interest. Departmental websites and Brown's online Directory of Research and Researchers can help.
- Contact a professor who might be willing to collaborate with you; attend his or her office hours. Talk about your shared interests and whether there might be an opportunity for collaboration.
- Draft your proposal – focusing on your research question, process, and timeline - and discuss it with your professor. Remember that demonstrating collaboration and your personal commitment to the project is key! Revise as needed and submit the UTRA application online.
- Student and faculty applicants must each complete a portion of the application. The two portions should demonstrate substantive collaboration.

FAQs

Can I hold an UTRA and another award?

Students who are awarded an UTRA and also receive another fellowship from the University or from another source will be asked to choose one.

What do I submit at the end of the award period?

UTRA projects often result in joint publications or conference presentations. Faculty generally require an end-of-term report or a completed paper or poster. An online evaluation is sent to award recipients encouraging them to give

feedback on the program. Summer recipients may present a poster at the annual Research Symposium.

What are the reviewers looking for when they evaluate the UTRA application?

The quality of the collaboration is a key factor in the selection process.

Will I have on-campus housing during the summer?

On-campus housing is NOT available to UTRA recipients. Students generally sublet apartments in the Providence area for the summer.