

2026 Department of Physics Undergraduate Summer Research Program

The Ohio State University Department of Physics is pleased to announce the 2026 Undergraduate Remote Summer Research Program. The program will feature the Robert P. Caren Family Endowment Fund, the Captain Forrest R. Biard Undergraduate Research Scholarship Fund, the Bunny and Tom Clark Scholarship Fund, and the Mercer Foundations Scholarship Fund. These support Physics and Engineering Physics undergraduate students pursuing research projects with an approved physics faculty sponsor during the summer of 2026.

Please note that this is a competitive program. Due to limited funding, we are not able to admit all applicants. Students who have received this scholarship in the past are welcome to reapply, but they are not guaranteed acceptance.

Research can be done either remotely or in-person, depending on the nature of the work and preference of the supporting faculty member.

PROGRAM DATES: May 18, 2026 through July 24, 2026. The research program will run for 10 weeks.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicant must be a major in Physics or Engineering Physics at OSU. Freshman through senior status. Please note that this is a competitive application due to limited funds and not all applicants will be awarded the scholarship.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS:

- Will receive a summer scholarship up to \$5,000. All funds will be posted through financial aid.
- Will conduct research under the supervision of a Physics faculty member pursuing a research project of mutual interest to the faculty and student.
- Will devote approximately 30 hours per week starting May 18, 2026 and ending July 24, 2026. **Vacation time is NOT included or expected during this time-period. If you take vacation, you will need to make up the time the week of July 27.** If you have a vacation already scheduled, please note on the application the dates of your vacation.
- Will participate in lunches and a research poster session as well as other professional development activities throughout the summer.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

To apply for the Summer Research Scholarship:

1. Complete the application form indicating the faculty member with whom you plan to do research during the summer of 2026 (page 3) and the acknowledgement and agreement form (page 4).
2. **The Physics faculty member you intend to do research with will need to complete an endorsement application (page 5 of this document) and a letter of support indicating the scope of the proposed project.**

Direct all application materials and questions to: Lindsey Thaler (thaler.21@osu.edu)

Completed applications will include:

Student responsibilities:

1. Complete Student Applicant Form (page 3)
2. Acknowledgement and Agreement Form (page 4)

Faculty responsibilities:

1. Complete Faculty Endorsement Form (page 5)
2. Short letter of support (see page 5 for details)

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS 2026 UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM - STUDENT APPLICANT
FORM**

Due Friday March 20, 2026 at 5pm

To the Student Applicant:

Please print or type:

First and Last Name: _____

Phone: _____

OSU Email address: _____

Major: _____

Faculty Research Advisor: _____

Will you be maxed out on Financial Aid for the 2026-2027 academic year*? _____

Have you been awarded this scholarship in the past? _____ Which year? _____

Are you requesting remote or in-person research this summer? _____ remote/virtual only**
_____ in-person only
_____ mix of in-person and remote**

**The student is required to attend the lunches and poster session in-person, even if the research is approved to be done remotely. If remote/virtual work is requested, it must be approved by the supporting research faculty member

Please send this completed application form and faculty endorsement page to:

Lindsey Thaler (thaler.21@osu.edu)

Please ask that your research advisor complete the faculty endorsement form (page 5)

*There is federal limit on how much financial aid a student can receive. If a student is already maxed out on financial aid, they will not be able to receive this scholarship. If you receive financial aid to cover your entire Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA), you may be ineligible for this scholarship. Check with Financial Aid if you have questions about your ability to receive more aid. The scholarship will be posted to summer term 2026 which is part of the 2026-2027 academic year.

Student Acknowledgement and Agreement Form

Due Friday March 20, 2026 at 5pm

If accepted to the program, I _____ (applicant's name):

- Agree to work an average of 30 hours per week for the duration of the program (10 weeks)
- Acknowledge that I will be required to attend some professional development sessions and present my research during a poster session at the end of the summer. These will take place in the Physics Research Building atrium.
- Confirm that I will not accept multiple research funding offers this summer. In other words, the Physics Summer Research Scholarship Program cannot be combined with other university 2026 summer research funding, including STEP funds. See program website for more details.
- Agree to track my weekly hours via a timesheet that will be submitted to the summer research program's coordinator.
- Agree to write a thank-you letter to the scholarship donor. Directions for this will be shared in the program offer letter.

Student's signature

date

APPLICATIONS PACKETS (WHICH INCLUDES THE FACULTY ENDORSMENT LETTER AND ENDORSEMENT PAGE)

Due Friday March 20, 2026 at 5pm

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS 2026 UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM – FACULTY ENDORSEMENT

To the Faculty Recommender/Advisor:

The purpose of the Physics Summer Research Program is to give especially promising undergraduate students the opportunity to perform research with a faculty advisor.

Contact Information:

Name of Student Applicant _____

Your OSU Email _____

Research is ten weeks during summer 2026 (May 18, 2026 to July 24, 2026). **By signing this form, you agree to provide adequate supervision of the student's research over this time period.**

Please answer the below questions.

1. Do you expect the student to complete their work remotely or in-person this summer?

- remote/virtual only
 in-person only
 mix of in-person and remote

2. Our goal is to provide as many students as possible with paid research this summer, but our scholarships are limited. If the student were to not receive this department scholarship, could they be paid by your research funds during summer 2026? The student would still be invited to participate in program events. yes no

Approval:

Signature of Faculty Recommender _____

Print name of Faculty Recommender _____

Please also provide a short description indicating the nature of the project and describe the student's ability to complete the project. Your candor in evaluating the student, his or her motivation, and likelihood for success in the chosen field will be appreciated.

Please send this form and recommendation to Lindsey Thaler (thaler.21@osu.edu)