

2021 STENGL-WYER SCHOLARS COMPETITION

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

Outstanding recent Ph.D.s are invited to apply for a leading fellowship position to study the diversity of life and/or organisms in their natural environments at The University of Texas at Austin, one of the top campuses in the country for this area of research.

Funded by the [Stengl-Wyer Endowment](#), the [Stengl-Wyer Scholars Program](#) provides up to three years of independent support for talented postdoctoral researchers in the broad area of the diversity of life and/or organisms in their natural environments. Scholars can study any groups of organisms, at levels from genes to populations to communities to ecosystems, and can use any combination of approaches. Scholars will:

- conduct cutting-edge research over three years;
- have access to the outstanding [core facilities](#) at UT-Austin, including field stations, natural history collections, computational, imaging, and biomolecular facilities;
- primarily focus on research, but in one of the three years, also develop a teaching or outreach effort related to their interests and career goals;
- participate in semi-monthly luncheons with other Stengl-Wyer Scholars, Fellows or guests; and
- receive career mentorship.

Scholars are expected to be highly independent and propose their own research program.

Applicants should identify one or more faculty from the university's College of Natural Sciences who will guarantee laboratory space and serve as mentor. Successful Scholars will be encouraged to interact broadly and collaborate with other faculty, postdocs, and graduate students at UT. 2021 Scholar recipients will receive the following:

- \$67,000 annual salary plus UT benefits
- \$10,000 annual stipend for research and travel expenses
- Up to \$3,000 relocation expenses depending on source location

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must have completed a Ph.D. or equivalent degree by the projected start date, and must have been awarded the degree no more than three years prior to the application deadline. Start date should be on or after June 1, 2021 and before May 31, 2022. The College encourages applications from individuals within populations traditionally underrepresented in our disciplines. Our goal is to provide all Scholars with an inclusive and supportive environment in which they can reach their greatest intellectual potential.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

All application documents should be formatted using 1-inch margins and no smaller than 11-point font. Recommended fonts are Arial, Georgia, Helvetica and Times New Roman. The following documents are all required and must all be submitted by the application deadline:

1. **Curriculum Vitae** including academic background and research experience.
2. **Research Plan** (4 pages maximum, including figures) describing the independent program that the applicant wishes to develop or implement at The University of Texas at Austin. The Research Plan should be innovative but feasible and should be developed independently by the applicant. The applicant is encouraged to consult with the proposed mentor(s) about relevant facilities and infrastructure. Preliminary data are not required. Literature citations do not count against the page limit.
3. **Letter(s) of Support** from one or more potential faculty mentor(s) within the College of Natural Sciences at UT-Austin which includes Integrative Biology, Marine Science, Molecular Biosciences, Neuroscience, Physics and other departments. Interdisciplinary projects linking to several research groups are encouraged, and UT-Austin faculty members from outside CNS can be included as co-mentors. Applicant must have made contact with the proposed faculty mentors, and the faculty mentors must agree to provide laboratory and office space or other facilities as needed and this commitment should be stated in their letter of support.
4. **Statement of teaching or outreach interests.**
5. **List of referees.** Provide the names and contact information of three (3) individuals who are familiar with the applicant's qualifications, training, and interests and have agreed to submit reference letters. Applicant's proposed faculty mentor(s) cannot be counted toward the three required references. Letters of reference must be submitted confidentially per the submission instructions below.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted through CompetitionSpace, UT-Austin's online submission interface. To apply:

1. Click the "Apply Now" button at the top right of this page or go to <https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1831473>.
2. Click the "Apply" button on the CompetitionSpace page.
3. This will take you to a login screen. External applicants should create an interface account by clicking the "Register" button toward the bottom of the page. Follow the instructions to create an account. Applicants with an existing UT EID and password should login using the "University of Texas Web Login" button.
4. You will be taken to an online applications form. Complete the form and upload the required submission materials (as described above) and click "Submit Application" at the bottom of the page. You also have the option to save a draft and return to continue your application.

Applicant required documents should be combined and uploaded as a single pdf. This includes the applicant's Curriculum Vitae, Research Plan, Letter(s) of Support, statement of teaching and

outreach interests, and list of referees.

Reference letters must be submitted by referees via email to the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Program Directors at swe@austin.utexas.edu and must be received by the application deadline of April 14, 2021. Reference letters should remain confidential, and the applicant must not be copied on this email. Applicant is responsible for communicating submission instructions and deadline to referees.

AWARD NOTIFICATION:

Announcement of awardees: May/June 2021

Award Start Date: after June 1, 2020 and before May 31, 2022

Award End Date: Up to three (3) years from award start date.

Number of Awards: Up to three (3) Stengl-Wyer Scholars will be awarded per year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program questions should be directed to the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Program Directors: swe@austin.utexas.edu

Application submission interface questions should be directed to CNS Strategic Research Initiatives: CNS_SRI@austin.utexas.edu

The form and timing of Stengl-Wyer Scholars awards is subject to change in subsequent years.

The content of this announcement is relevant only for Spring 2021 awards

The University of Texas at Austin, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.