

# The UC Davis Undergraduate Research Center

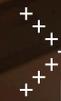
*CATALYZING DISCOVERY AND PREPARING TOMORROW'S LEADERS*



**UC DAVIS**

Undergraduate Research Center

Office of Undergraduate Education



**Expect Greater**

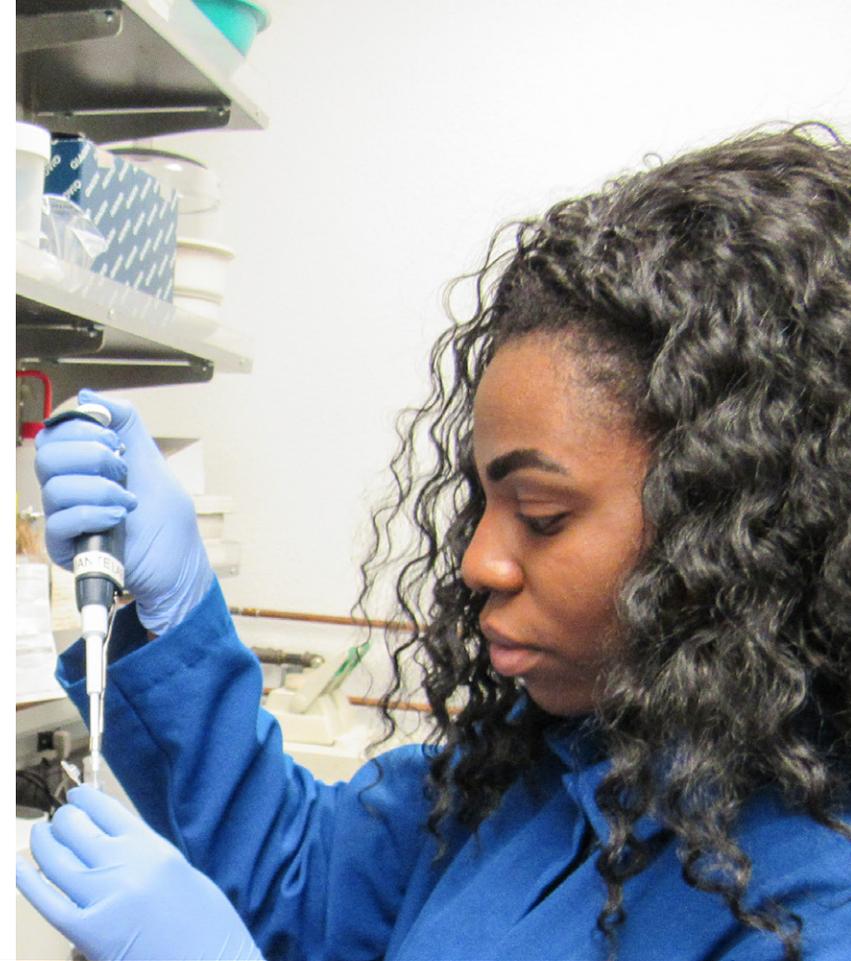
From UC Davis. For the World.

## The Undergraduate Research Center: *A Gateway to Discovery*

Undergraduate student researchers are vital to UC Davis' mission of creating new knowledge and solving our world's most urgent challenges. The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) is a catalyst for connecting undergraduates with the opportunities and support they need to engage in groundbreaking research, regardless of their major, background or prior skills.

To help students cultivate curiosity and build research skills, the URC offers a wide variety of preparation and professional development resources, including:

- Free skill-development tools and workshops to help students at any stage of the research process identify their research interests, connect with faculty mentors and set career goals
- Financial support for students conducting research during the academic year or summer
- Research development workshops, tailored to the unique needs of STEM and humanities students, that help scholars craft abstracts, write graduate school applications, prepare for presentations and more
- Cohort-based research mentorship programs—including the NSF California Alliance for Minority Participation (CAMP), Mentorships for Undergraduate Research Participation in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MURPPS), and the Mentor-Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences—which lower the barriers to participation in research and diversify the workforce
- An annual Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference to give scholars a platform to share their research with wider audiences
- Publication and travel awards to help students share findings in their disciplines



### The Opportunity

We invite you to consider a gift to the Undergraduate Research Center that will connect students with the support they need to embark upon paths of discovery and collaborate to find solutions we haven't yet imagined.

Through your philanthropy, we will continue to grow our programs to serve a greater number of students, further elevate the quality of mentorship they receive, and make life-changing research experiences available to all.



*“By participating in the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference, I learned how to structure my research findings into an engaging format that could be presented to a large audience. Had it not been for my research experience working with documentary films, I would not be prepared to enter the film and digital media industry with so much confidence.”*

- CHARA CHARIS ANDREWS '20,  
cinema and digital media major

## Preparing the Researchers of the Future

As part of the collaborative educational environment at UC Davis, undergraduates develop their critical thinking and creativity while being mentored by top faculty in every field.

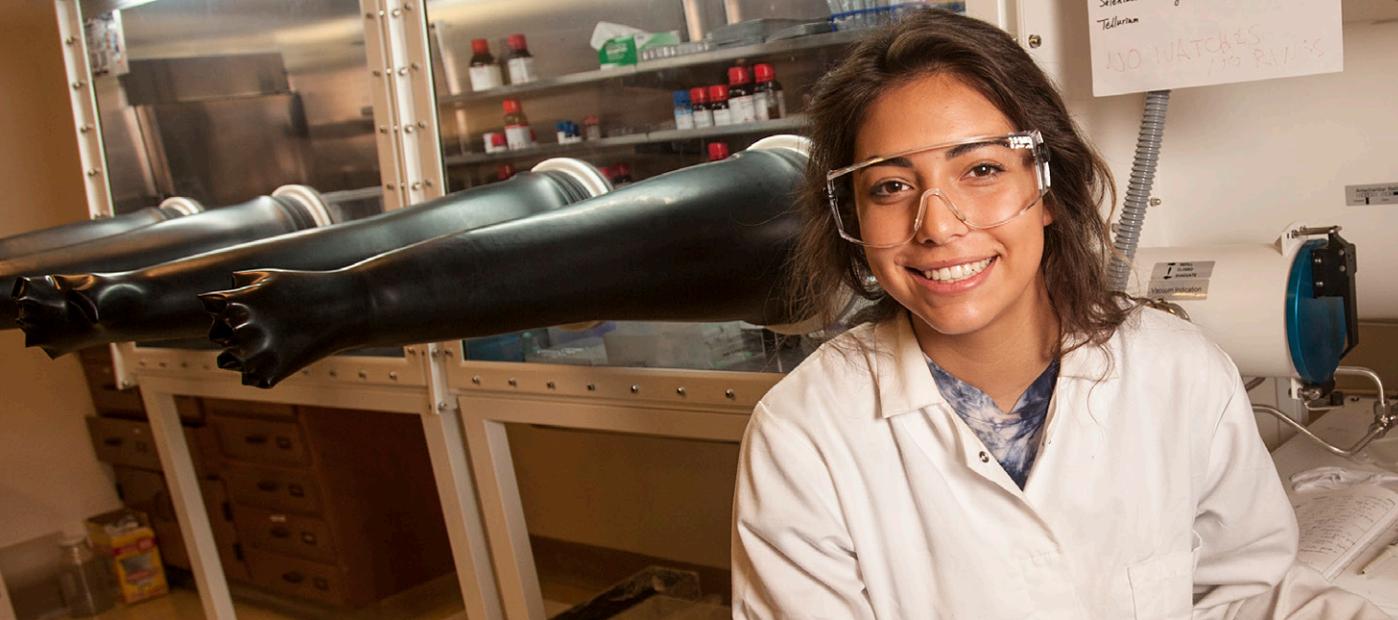
We believe that undergraduate research experiences should be open to every student, at any stage—not limited to those on a particular career track or in their final year of study. We encourage students to engage in research early and sustain their immersion in research throughout their academic journeys. This early involvement benefits students whether they continue on to graduate school or pursue careers right after graduation.

Early research engagement is also a powerful tool for advancing equity and diversity in scholarship. Creating knowledge alongside faculty and graduate students at one of the nation’s premier public universities gives undergraduate students firsthand opportunities to solve our world’s most pressing problems, gain the skills of their chosen field or industry, and advance the horizons of possibility.

**Your philanthropic partnership will make it possible for every undergraduate to access a variety of research and professional opportunities that help them achieve their biggest dreams.**

*“The Mentor-Mentee Program gave me the opportunity to conduct research and explore ideas I wouldn’t have had the chance to pursue in a classroom. The guidance and focus I received from the program was invaluable: I improved my writing, my research and my analytical skills.”*

- DOAA ATAMNA '18, English major and participant in the Mentor-Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences, 2015-16



*“Research as an undergraduate has shown me that I can succeed and thrive in a hands-on chemistry environment. I have always wanted to become a professor, but participating in research allowed me to solidify those dreams as goals.”*

- KAIA YELLOWHORSE '20, MURPPS scholar who double-majored in pharmaceutical chemistry and political science

## Expanding Access to Immersive Research Opportunities

To be competitive in their chosen industries and successful in graduate or professional school, undergraduate students need research experiences that allow them to flourish as independent thinkers and compassionate innovators. However, undergraduate research opportunities are often out of reach for students whose budgets don't have the flexibility for summer housing, travel costs or research materials—or for those who can't risk losing income while completing a summer project or unpaid lab assistantship.

Diversifying the world of research requires removing the financial barriers that prevent many bright students from weaving research into their academic journeys. Research stipends and grants make scholarship and graduate school more accessible for scholars from low- and middle-income families or from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in academia.

**Philanthropic support for immersive research experiences gives undergraduate students the gift of time to focus on digging deeply into complex research problems, without being burdened by financial stress.** And as students complete their research and begin to share their findings, awards for travel and publication promote diverse representation in academic research—as well as commend students with the potential to transform their chosen fields or industries.

*“Undergraduate research is integral for any student with their sights on higher education beyond the bachelor's level. MURPPS gave me an opportunity to participate by lifting a financial barrier. The stipend helped open the door to an aspect of education that I was unfamiliar with: mentorship and research support. The connections that MURPPS helped me make with professors and peers have endured and continue to help fuel my successes.”*

- TONY MORENO '18, pharmaceutical chemistry major, pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry and biochemistry at UC Los Angeles



*“Engaging in undergraduate research connected me with faculty and graduate students who advised me on how to go forward with my career. Because of CAMP, I was able to focus on my project free from any financial stressors. My data from my summer work was published in the Journal of Cell Biology. I do not think I would be in graduate school if it were not for my undergraduate research experience.”*

- HAROLD MARIN '16, biochemistry and molecular biology major, currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Tetrad graduate program (biochemistry, genetics, and molecular, cell and developmental biology) at UC San Francisco

*“Performing undergraduate research allowed me to become aware of opportunities within my field, and working closely with graduate students and faculty mentors allowed me to forge a path into graduate school.”*

- JULIA OWEN '18, animal biology major, currently a Ph.D. candidate in the UC Davis Graduate Group in Ecology

## Advancing Excellence in Research and Diversity in Mentorship

Faculty and graduate students who mentor undergraduate researchers play a critical role in helping students envision themselves as change makers. As research mentors, faculty and graduate students not only guide students through their research projects, but also help them cultivate professional skills including public speaking, research writing, design thinking and more. In addition, research mentors also often serve as advisors for students interested in pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

It is essential for student researchers to learn from and work alongside faculty who fuse cutting-edge research with a commitment to ensuring that a variety of perspectives are represented in every field and industry.

For students from backgrounds underrepresented in academia, the opportunity to receive mentorship from faculty researchers who honor their perspectives—and the unique cultural assets, questions and knowledge they bring to UC Davis—has a significant impact on their advancement into graduate and professional degree programs.

**Philanthropic support for faculty and graduate students who mentor undergraduates is an investment in sustaining the highest quality of research mentorship and the rich diversity at UC Davis.**

# Opportunities to Make a Difference



Philanthropic support for undergraduate research and high-quality, diverse faculty mentorship empowers students to work across disciplinary boundaries and forge identities as researchers.

With the support of alumni, friends and industry partners who share our vision of a better future made possible through discovery and innovation, we will take our mission to the next level. **We invite you to make a gift to the Undergraduate Research Center—an investment in the promise of the diverse minds and ideas that will change the world tomorrow.**

## Expanding Access to Research

Establish fellowships to support undergraduates pursuing summer research experiences

\$3,500 - \$5,000 PER FELLOWSHIP

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Establish fellowships to support students conducting research during the academic year

\$1,200 - \$2,400 PER FELLOWSHIP

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Expand fellowship and research support funding for cohort-based programs

GOAL: \$20,000

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Fund travel grants so students can pursue scholarship beyond campus or present their findings at industry and field conferences

GOAL: \$5,000 PER YEAR

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Establish an undergraduate award to recognize excellence in research that brings us closer to a better world

\$20,000 TO ENDOW

## Advancing Diversity in Mentorship

Fund grants to simultaneously support an undergraduate student and the professional development of their faculty mentor

\$5,000 - \$10,000 PER FELLOWSHIP

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Establish professional development stipends for faculty research mentors

\$2,500 PER FACULTY MENTOR  
SEEKING GIFTS OF ALL SIZES

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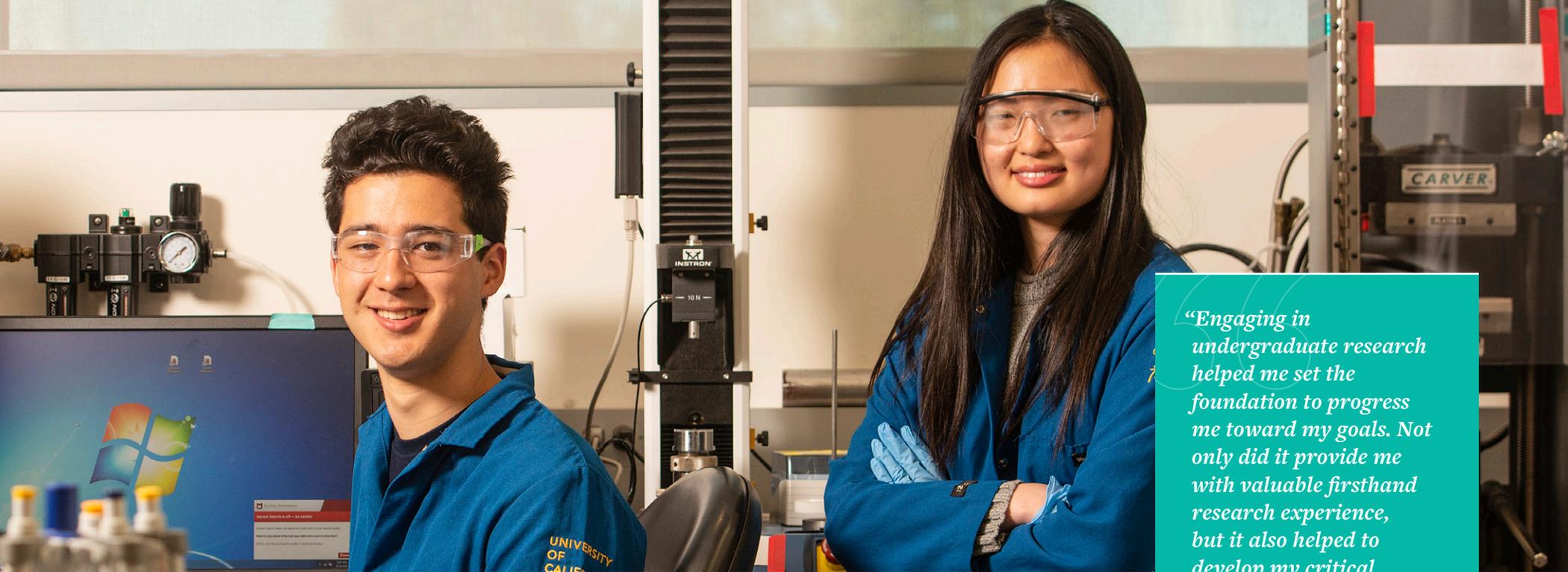
Establish stipends for graduate student research mentors

\$500 PER GRADUATE MENTOR  
SEEKING GIFTS OF ALL SIZES

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Create an award for faculty who champion diversity in their research area and successfully mentor undergraduates

\$500 PER AWARD  
SEEKING GIFTS OF ALL SIZES



## An Invitation

Thank you for your consideration of a gift to the Undergraduate Research Center. Your commitment to supporting undergraduate researchers and those who serve as their mentors will grant students the time they need to spark curiosity, develop their research skills and create new knowledge for the well-being of people and planet.

Together, we will prepare the next generation of visionaries, innovators and problem solvers poised to change the world.

*“Engaging in undergraduate research helped me set the foundation to progress me toward my goals. Not only did it provide me with valuable firsthand research experience, but it also helped to develop my critical thinking, analytical and statistical analysis skills, all of which have been tremendous assets in my graduate school endeavors. Participating in research also solidified my passion for academia and convinced me that research was something that I wanted to pursue in my future.”*

- NATASHA FOWLER '15, psychobiology major, currently pursuing a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience at Michigan State University

### For more information, please contact:

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## Ways of Giving

We respect that, for each donor who wishes to provide significant philanthropic support, there are personal, financial and gift planning aspects to consider. We will work with you to realize your philanthropic vision and develop the gift plan that best meets your needs. At your request, we can also work with your tax and financial advisors.

Following are various gift types and their associated benefits. You may wish to consider a mix of gift types to help you achieve both your philanthropic and financial objectives.

### Cash Gifts

- Are the simplest and most popular giving method
- Can be tax deductible in the year they are given

### Gifts of Securities

- Include stocks, mutual funds and bonds
- Can avoid capital gains taxes
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated securities

### Gifts of Real Property

- Include land, farms, personal residences, and rental or commercial property
- Can avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated property
- Can eliminate property expenses and taxes
- Can provide continued use for life through a retained life estate gift

### Bequests and Living Trusts

- Establish the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate
- Can provide an estate tax deduction equal to the value of the gift
- Offer flexibility by allowing you to provide for family first

### Retirement Plan Gifts

- For current gifts, utilize the IRA Charitable Rollover provision (for donors aged 70½ and older)
- Name the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary
- Can eliminate income tax on the plan distributions
- Preserve the plan's full value for gift purposes

### Life Income Gifts

- Include charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities
- Can provide potential tax savings on income, estate and capital gains
- Generate income for you and/or your loved ones for a fixed period of time or until your passing
- Distribute the remaining assets to the UC Davis Foundation