Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship

Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) Funding & ForagerOne Information Session
(Fall 2023)
Highest Research Activity, or “Research 1”

- One of only 131 R1 universities
- World-renowned faculty known for their research
- 80th out of 900 universities in extramural research funding
- Among the top 2% in more than 26,000 colleges and universities worldwide in the rankings
- Financial & programmatic support for UG students to conduct research/creative work, including UROP
UROP coordinates and promotes opportunities for all undergraduate students across all disciplines at UH Mānoa to engage in faculty-mentored research and creative work.
Research & Creative Work Defined

“A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge”

- National Council on Undergraduate Research

Criteria of UG Research
(Osborn & Karukstis, 2009; CUR)

1. Faculty-Mentored
2. Original/Authentic Inquiry
3. Disciplinarily-Appropriate Inquiry
4. Disseminated
UROP: Core Programs/Activities

1) **(New!) ForagerOne**
2) **Entering Research & Creative Work (ERC) Funding**
3) **Project Funding**
4) **Presentation Funding**
5) **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**
6) **On campus Presentation venues (SURE Symposium, Undergraduate Showcase)**
UROP Experience – Why do it?

• Meet degree requirements
• Get funding to do research & creative work
• Get valuable experience
• Enhance CV/resume
• Work with faculty/experts
• Inform/confirm your future
ForagerOne
ForagerOne

- Open to **ALL** UHM undergraduate students, faculty, staff
- Online, searchable database of:
  - Student, faculty, and staff profiles
  - On/off-campus research and creative work opportunities
- Built-in messaging system
- **FREE**
ForagerOne – Profiles

- Instructions on how to create a profile on our website
  - Select UHM
  - Duo Authentication
  - User Type
- Build your profile!
  - About
  - Areas of Interest
  - Experience
  - Presentations/Competitions
  - Publications
  - Awards
ForagerOne – At a Glance

- Refine your search
  - Faculty, students
  - Accepting students
  - Active projects
- Bookmark faculty
- Send requests, messages
ForagerOne – Communication

- Communicating with a faculty member
  - Formal
    - Use appropriate titles unless asked otherwise
  - Specific, detailed
    - Work they’ve done, research keywords
    - Work you’re interested in doing
  - Timely

**UROP Tips**
Finding a Faculty Mentor

- Get started NOW!
  - Consider your interests and take relevant courses
  - Get good grades!
  - Talk to your professors, academic advisors, other students, and UROP

- Present yourself to a potential faculty mentor
  - Be precise and detailed
  - Do your homework

**Creighton Litton**
Faculty

**Title**: Professor
**Email**: litton@hawaii.edu
**Phone No**: 956-6004
**Address**: 1910 East-West Road
**Location**: SHER 240

**Website**: https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/littonc/Home.aspx

**Education/Professional Prep/Appointments:**
- 2002 Ph.D. Botany, University of Wyoming, Department of Botany, Laramie, Wyoming
- 1994 M.S. Forest Resources, School of Forest Resources, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 1991 B.A. Environmental Studies, Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia

**Currently Working on:**

**Projects**: Please see https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/littonc/Research.aspx

**Selected Courses Taught:**
- NREM 480 Applied Forest Ecology
- NREM 680 Ecosystem Ecology
- NREM 682 Restoration Ecology
- BOT/NREM/ZOOL 690 Conservation Biology

**Extension/Research Interests:**
- Impacts of invasive species, land use change, and climate change on forest ecosystem structure and function
- Disturbance ecology of tropical forests
- Restoration of terrestrial ecosystem structure and function
- Carbon input, allocation and storage in terrestrial ecosystems
- Outdoor, immersive youth environmental education

**Research Keywords:** forest; tropical; feral; ecosystem; native; montane; carbon; native; hawaiian; biomass; hawaii; pig; specy; wet; restoration; mangrove; grass; maximus

**Faculty Information**: No Faculty Information

**Open Projects**: No Specific Projects Listed
ForagerOne - Opportunities

- Different from projects
- List managed by UROP
- Internal and external opportunities

**Volunteer at Lyon Arboretum School Tours Program and Fall Nature Camp**

The Lyon Arboretum Education Department is in great need of help with our school tours program as well as our Fall Nature Camp. Our school tours program runs from 9 am -12pm and their Fall Nature Camp is during the DOE Fall Break (October 7th-11th) from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm. They could use help in the office as well with clerical work, scheduling tours and groups, helping volunteers, etc. We could also use some help in the Children’s Garden too with weeding and planting. We will train and provide snacks and coffee. Visit the website or contact Raedelle Van Fossen at (808) 988-0461 or raedelle@hawaii.edu.

**Research and Experiential Learning Opportunities on Study Abroad with the Study Abroad Center**

The University of Hawai’i at Manoa Study Abroad Center is offering several study abroad opportunities that incorporate research and experiential learning as part of the curriculum. Please see the link below for a summary of opportunities. For
Entering Research and Creative Work Funding
Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) Overview

**What is it?**
- Funding for early career undergraduate students to be introduced to faculty-mentored research or creative work

**Who is it for?**
- Undergraduate students with little or no faculty-mentored research or creative work experience, but who are motivated to explore it
ERC Funding:
1. Enrolled as a classified undergraduate student at UHM in the semester following the application semester
2. Mentored by a UHM faculty member who meets the eligibility criteria (tenured/tenure-track faculty)
3. Plan to graduate from UHM
4. Submit no more than one application per funding cycle
5. Have no more than one active Project/ERC funding at a time

ERC Only:
1. Have more than 60 credits remaining in their bachelor’s degree program at the time of application
ERC Funding Details

Funding Amount:
- $1,500 worth of stipend per semester or $3,000 for 2 consecutive semesters
- Merit-based Scholarship (financial aid)

Deadlines:
- Fall Deadline: Oct 10 (9/9-10/10)
- Spring Deadline: March 3 (2/2-3/3)

Application:
- Simple application
  - Does NOT include a proposal
- Pre-survey (within application form)
- Transcript & resume
- ERC Mentor Form, to be completed by your faculty mentor after submitting your portion of the application
ERC Experience – What does it look like?

Your experience will include:
• At least 100 hours of research or creative work activities per semester
• Safety, ethics, and research compliance training
• Attend professional development modules
  • Research and creative work best practices
  • Responsible conduct of research

May include:
• Assist faculty with ongoing research or creative work
  • Methodology, technology, tool, etc. training specific to the discipline
• Initiate or help faculty with a project in a preliminary stage
  • Literature review
  • Planning
• Everyone is different!
Application Process

- Paperless, online application
- Faculty Mentor submits the Mentor Form
  - Mentorship plan, student outcome, activities, timetable, etc.
- At least 2 UHM faculty reviewers per application
  - All applications take ~2 months to process/review
Steps Towards Submitting a Successful Application

- Plan ahead
- Review the guidelines on the UROP website
- Review the application
- Talk with your faculty mentor
- Talk with UROP
- Submit all required materials
- Submit it on time!
Applying for ERC

- Review: UROP guidelines
- Review: ERC Funding Application
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Follow us on social media

Follow our Instagram and Facebook page!
Questions? Let us know!

- Visit our website: manoa.hawaii.edu/urop
- Email us: UROP@hawaii.edu
- Call us: 808.956.7492
- Visit us: Moore Hall 107/108

UROP Staff
Director: Dr. Creighton M. Litton
Assistant Director: Seung Yang
Program Coordinator:
Graduate Assistant: Gerlene Ragsac
Undergraduate Assistant: Lauree Tam