First Year Project
Curiosity Leads to Wisdom

**Statements (required). Complete both statements.**

Be sure your name, email and SA# appear on every page of your statements.

1. Project Proposal (600 words max., 12 pt. font, double-spaced)
   What is your idea for a summer project? What motivates you and why do you want to do this project now? What makes this project exciting, creative and challenging? Explain what you hope to gain/learn/understand. Identify a faculty member or an honors advisor with whom you have discussed this project: what was his or her response/advice? (NB: This faculty member may or may not end up mentoring you during the project. We simply seek evidence that you are talking about your ideas with an expert in a related discipline.)

   The project proposal should demonstrate:
   - Creativity, evidence of innovative thinking and ingenuity
   - Intellectual rigor
   - A clear sense of how and where the project could be completed
   - What form of research, reflection, and academic writing will emerge
   - Details regarding materials and equipment you would need
   - How you might present your completed project to others

2. Personal Statement (400 words max., 12 pt. font, double-spaced)
   Write a compelling statement that illustrates your qualifications, aspirations and abilities. What should we know about you that isn’t expressed in your résumé or transcript?

   The candidates should demonstrate:
   - Intellectual fitness for the proposed project
   - Energy, commitment, and motivation
   - Independence and maturity
   - A willingness to be challenged and accept criticism
   - Ambition and a desire to learn

**Supplementary Materials (required). Completed applications must also include:**

- A “preliminary recommendation” form from a UConn faculty member (Note: recommenders may access this form from the Holster website.)
- One recommendation from a high school teacher or mentor*
- A high school transcript (this may take longer than you think; don’t wait until the last minute)
- A 1-2 page résumé

*High school recommenders may submit their letters to the candidate in a postmarked envelope or envelope with a signature across the seal; OR they may email or submit recommendations directly to the address below.
Additional Materials (optional)

Candidates may include additional information if it is relevant to their application/proposed project:

- One additional recommendation from an employer, supervisor, or high school teacher
- A portfolio depicting previous work related to the proposed project (1 copy or original, ok)
- CDs/DVDs (1 copy or original, ok)

Submission

Assemble your materials in the following order (DO NOT STAPLE any materials; use a paperclip or envelope to contain your application):

1. project proposal
2. personal statement
3. transcript
4. résumé

(Letters of recommendation and transcripts should arrive in sealed envelopes via the candidate or the US Mail, or by Email. When submitting items by US Mail, be sure to reference the Holster Scholar Program on the envelope. When submitting items by Email, be sure to reference the Holster Scholar Program in the subject line.)

Deadline: All items should be received by 4:00pm on November 7, 2018.

Materials may be sent by US Mail to:  
Holster Scholars Program  
Attn: Marlene Coughlin  
368 Fairfield Way, Unit 4147  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269-4147

Or hand-delivered to:  
Enrichment Programs Main Office  
Rowe 419

Or Emailed to (preferred):  
onsf@uconn.edu

(Again, please reference the Holster Scholar Program in any communications.)

Interviews & Selection

We plan to notify Finalists the week after Thanksgiving that they have been granted permission to enroll in the one-credit spring Holster Proposal Development course.

During the course, finalists will hone their ideas, secure firm commitments from faculty mentors, and sharpen their proposals. Final proposals will be due in March (exact deadline varies, but applications are usually due the Thursday before spring break).

All finalists will be interviewed and have their final proposals reviewed by an interdisciplinary faculty selection committee. Based on their final proposals and their interviews, six-to-nine Scholars will be selected to receive up to $4,000 in research funding for summer 2019 to complete their projects.

Questions?  
Contact Vin Moscardelli, Director, Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships, at vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu. Or, schedule an appointment on http://nexus.uconn.edu.