



Holster First Year Project

Curiosity Leads to Wisdom

2021 Application

Submit as instructed below
by **November 10, 2020.**

Statements (required). Complete both statements.

Be sure your **name, Email and Student ID#** 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 (**faculty recommenders access this form at <https://honors.uconn.edu/holster-uconn-preliminary-recommendation>**)
- One recommendation from a high school teacher or mentor*
- A 1-2 page résumé

*High school recommenders should submit their recommendations via Email to onsf@uconn.edu.

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

All materials must be submitted electronically. Please compile all materials except letters of recommendation into a single PDF file and Email them to onsf@uconn.edu, with subject line "Holster Scholar Application – Lastname, Firstname. If you plan to provide additional materials that cannot easily be submitted as part of a single PDF, please contact program coordinator Dr. Vin Moscardelli via Email (vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu).

Deadline: All materials must be **received** by **NOON on November 10, 2020**.

Interviews & Selection

The selection committee, which is comprised of a multidisciplinary group of faculty, staff, and administrators, will meet soon after the deadline to review application materials and select 12-15 Finalists. 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, which will meet on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 in the spring. Since Finalist selection occurs after spring pre-registration has begun, all Holster Scholar applicants are encouraged to try to build a spring schedule that leaves this block clear, in case they are selected as Finalists. Otherwise, Finalists will be required to rearrange their schedules during add-drop in January.

During the proposal development seminar, Finalists will hone their ideas, secure firm commitments from faculty mentors, and sharpen their proposals. Final proposals will be due at 3:30PM the Thursday before spring break.

The selection process involves two rounds of interviews. The first is a 1:1 interview with a member of the selection committee. The second is an interview before the entire selection committee. Based on their final proposals and their interviews, approximately 6-9 Scholars will be selected to receive up to \$4,000 in research funding for summer 2021 to complete their projects.

Questions?

Contact [Vin Moscardelli](mailto:Vin.Moscardelli), Director, [Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships](http://nexus.uconn.edu), at vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu. Or, schedule an appointment on <http://nexus.uconn.edu>.