Dear Colleagues,

This is a call for nominations for the 2015/16 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) program. Awards of $1,500 each are available for undergraduate students to: undertake research under the mentorship and guidance of a faculty member; present her/his research at the annual JCURA Research Fair; and have the opportunity to publish results in UVic’s peer-reviewed online journal – the Arbutus Review.

Eligible students include full-time third-year or fourth-year undergraduate students (normally registered in 12 or more units of study in the winter session of the academic year in which the award is given) who are in excellent academic standing (normally this is a minimum sessional GPA requirement of 7.0) and who satisfy the general regulations of Student Awards and Financial Aid. Award recipients will undertake a research investigation in dialogue with, and under the mentorship of, a faculty supervisor. Each academic unit is eligible for either 1, 2 or 3 student nominations per year depending on the number of students in the unit. Each unit can determine how many students they are eligible to nominate by checking the list.
We have streamlined the nomination process. It is now a single form that passes between nominee and supervisor, and then on to the unit Chair/Director or designate. The nomination form can be found here. Chairs/Directors do not need to rank your eligible nominees. Also please do not send more nominees than your academic unit’s eligibility limit. We will put out a second call in September should we have awards left over to distribute.

For your convenience, we have established a “rolling” deadline for receipt of nominations. Units may submit their nominee(s) to the Learning and Teaching Centre (LTC) beginning May 31, 2015 and through September 15, 2015. The LTC, and the office of Student Awards and Financial Aid, will process nominations as they arrive. This way a student will know as soon as possible if she/he is going to receive the award, and the supervisor will also know as soon as possible if a student’s application has been successful. For these reasons, units may submit nominees any time within this period. However, we strongly prefer that units collect all eligible nominations together and submit them in one group at the same time. In addition, all nominations must come directly from the Chair/Director or designate, not from the potential supervisor, since this caused some confusion in the past.

I encourage everyone to broadcast information about the JCURA program widely. Please help our exceptional undergraduates take advantage of this opportunity. Potential JCURA student applicants and supervisors are encouraged to attend the upcoming JCURA Research Fair on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM in the SUB. Seeing the diversity of research projects at the fair is probably the best way for potential students (and their supervisors) to appreciate the range of possibilities available.

Based on feedback, we have also updated the FAQ for the JCURA. If you have any other questions about the program, please contact the Learning and Teaching Centre.

All the best for a successful undergraduate research year in 2015/16.

Best wishes,
Teresa