

UNC – Chapel Hill
Department of Economics
Research Grants in Economics for Summer 2024

The Economics Department is pleased to offer several undergraduate competitive research awards in Summer 2024:

1. **Guest Family Fund Grant:** Four grants of \$4,000 each
2. **Research in inequality grant:** Two grants of \$4,000 each will be awarded to study topics in inequality with preference given to proposals that demonstrates promise for improving outcomes for disadvantaged populations.
3. **Wesslen Grant for research in Data Analytics:** Two grants of \$4,000 each with a preference for students working in data science or considering careers in data science.

All grants will be paid when the final paper is submitted in September.

Application Procedure:

You can apply as an individual or you can apply with a partner (as a pair). The recipients are chosen in a competition among all interested students. Each student or pair of students works with a faculty advisor (who receives \$1,000 per pair supervised) to develop and implement a research plan on an issue in Economics. The students work with the faculty advisor over the summer, and then write up their research in a final report submitted in September.

These projects could serve as launching pads for senior honors theses or could be collaborative work with the faculty advisor or an independent research project, but they should be stand-alone in the sense of providing a completed project and a written report at the end of the summer.

Definition of **Research Plan:** A research plan will be a three-page summary of:

1. the research question to be addressed;
2. the relevance of the research question including the importance for policy and/or for deepening our knowledge of Economics;
3. the techniques that you will use in addressing this question. These can be theoretical or quantitative, but they should be spelled out;
4. the availability of data for completing the project (if relevant);
5. the name of the faculty member who has agreed to advise you in your work.

The **faculty** member should write an **accompanying letter** approving the project, speaking to your qualifications, and agreeing to provide mentoring and guidance over the summer for which the project is scheduled.

Timetable:

- **March 29, 2024, 5 pm:** Deadline for submitting research plan and accompanying letter. Please email the research plan to ECON_Undergradprogram@unc.edu.
- **April 8, 2024:** Notification of winners by the selection committee.
- **September 30, 2024, 5 pm:** Deadline for submission of final research report by those groups winning the grant. Please email the research report to ECON_Undergradprogram@unc.edu. The research report should be a detailed presentation of the research question and the results obtained during the summer. It should take the form of a research paper, suitable for circulation among faculty. This will also be posted in the Economics department webpage,

<https://econ.unc.edu/undergraduate/research-opportunities/>. You can find research papers from past summers at this link.

We look forward to reading your applications.