



DON EDEN GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM

<http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb/awards/eden-about.shtml>

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Important Dates and Information:

RFA Release Date: September 8, 2011

Application Deadline: October 10, 2011 before 5:00 p.m. pacific time

Award Notification: At CSU Biotechnology Symposium, January 5-7, 2012

Maximum Award Amount: \$1,750 (\$750 award and travel reimbursement up to \$1,000)

Program Description:

The Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award fosters excellence in graduate student research throughout the California State University (CSU) system in biotechnology, covering a broad range of topics in cellular, molecular, chemical and physical studies of the life sciences.

This award honors Professor Don Eden (San Francisco State University) who held his students, colleagues and himself to the highest standards of excellence in research. In 1998 Professor Eden received the CSUPERB Faculty Research Award and was a tireless participant in CSUPERB governance from that time until his death in 2000. Professor Eden's own research was in biophysics and physical biochemistry, therefore, nomination of students using these approaches is particularly encouraged.

2012 Eden Award Review Criteria:

- *Quality of Poster Abstract.* The research project presented must be original and innovative; literature reviews alone are not acceptable.
- *Quality of Essay.* Applicants must submit an essay describing the impact of the research project (described in the poster abstract) will have on that specific research field, what "integrity in research" means to the applicant, what applicant's career goals are, and how the

research described in the poster abstract impacts those career goals. Because the Eden Award includes a travel allowance, the essay should also provide details about the national or international meeting the applicant plans to attend, if he/she wins the Eden Award. Explain why that particular meeting would be an appropriate setting in which to present the applicant's research project.

- *Nomination Letter from Faculty Advisor.* A faculty advisor must submit a signed nomination letter with the application package. This letter should provide a fair and objective assessment of the student's academic achievements and research abilities.
- *Quality of Poster and Interview.* Applicants' posters will be judged based on the quality of the work presented, clarity of the data analysis, and ease of viewing. Applicant will also be judged on his/her ability to answer questions during an interview at the poster during the 24th Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 5-7, 2012 in Santa Clara, California; see www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/symposium/2012).
- *Quality of Short Talk.* Applicants will give a 10-minute talk during the awards session at the CSU Biotechnology Symposium, with an additional 5 minutes for questions and answers. The talk will be judged based on the applicant's ability to effectively communicate why the project is scientifically interesting to a general audience, to clearly present research methods, results and conclusions, to handle questions from the audience, to adhere to the time limit, and to prepare easy-to-read slides.

Program Eligibility and Requirements:

- The Eden Award program is open to any CSU student engaged in master's level biotechnology research or in the first two years of a doctoral biotechnology-related program. Previous Eden Award winners are not eligible.
- The research project presented must be biotechnology-related. CSUPERB accepts applications from students in all biotechnology-related disciplines, including but not limited to life science, physical science, clinical science, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.
- Applicants and their faculty mentors must submit a poster abstract to the symposium using the electronic abstract submission system, OARS (see:

<http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb/symposium/2012/submission.shtml>) by October 10, 2011.

Applicants' poster abstracts are evaluated by a CSU faculty committee in the pool of abstracts submitted to the CSU Biotechnology Symposium. If the symposium committee does not select the poster abstract, applicants will not be eligible for the Eden Award.

- Complete application packages (see below) must be submitted by the deadline.
- Applicants are required to attend the symposium if selected as a '*finalist*' by the review committee.

Application Submission Instructions:

APPLICATION DEADLINE is October 10, 2011, before 5:00 p.m. pacific time.

Application forms and electronic submission instructions are available at the CSUPERB webpage: <http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb/awards/eden-submission.shtml>.

A complete application package includes all of the following:

- Signed Eden Award cover page
- Poster abstract as submitted to the CSU Biotechnology Symposium
- Signed faculty advisor nomination letter (limit 2 pages) on campus letterhead
- Personal essay (limit 2 pages)

Eden Award application packages must be submitted by the deadline using the OARS system (www.csuperb.org/oars).

Evaluation and Review Process:

Applications that are complete and meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel comprised of CSU faculty, administrators and the Eden family. Up to one award will be made each year. The evaluation and review process involves the following:

- The CSUPERB program office will evaluate applications for completeness and eligibility. Qualified applications will be forwarded to the review committee.
- The review committee will select finalists based on the quality of research described in the poster abstract, applicant's essay and nomination letter from faculty advisor. Finalists will be notified so that they can register for and attend the CSU Biotechnology Symposium.

- Finalists will be further evaluated based on their short talk and poster presentation at the symposium.
- The award recipient will be announced and recognized during the awards dinner at the symposium.

The Award:

A prize of \$750 will be made to support the education of the award recipient. The remainder (maximum up to \$1000) will be available to reimburse awardee's expenses incurred travelling to and from a national or international scientific meeting to present the award-winning research project. Maximum award amount is \$1,750.

Program Contacts and Addresses:

For information about application forms and submission process:

Eric Nedelman

Administrative Analyst, CSUPERB

Email: nedelman@sciences.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-1203 or 619-594-2822

Fax: 619-594-5291

For information about this program and RFA:

Susan M. Baxter

Executive Director, CSUPERB

sbaxter@mail.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-2822

James Schmitt

Budget Analyst, CSUPERB

jschmitt@sciences.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-5299