LIFE University

CETL RISE Scholarship Guidelines
(formerly Research Scholarships)

RATIONALE:
Life University is committed to recognizing and supporting students engaged in research, scholarly, creative/entrepreneurial, and service activities that advance knowledge, spur innovation, and develop proficiencies necessary "to become transformational leaders in an increasingly diverse, global and dynamic world." Scholarship funding is central to recognizing and rewarding student talent and achievement and encouraging continued growth.

OVERVIEW:
The *Research, Innovation, Service and Education ("RISE") Scholarships* provide opportunities for students to compete for $2,250 in scholarship funding while working under the mentorship of a Life University faculty or staff advisor on an evidence-based research, education, service, entrepreneurial or creative project.

RISE scholarships are open to full-time equivalent (FTE) students matriculating in degree programs in the College of Chiropractic (COC) and the College of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies (CGUS). Contingent upon the availability of funding, CETL will award a total of eight scholarships each quarter. Four of the scholarships will be under the CoC Track and four will be under the CGUS track.

The scholarship award will be applied toward tuition for the quarter following application submission and approval. In no instance will students be eligible to receive the cash value of the award.

Scholarships are renewable each quarter, pending satisfactory progress and availability of funds as identified through the annual budgeting process.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:
Depending upon the college of enrollment, students can apply for funding under the COC or CGUS track as early as their second quarter at Life University. Students competing for funding consideration must meet each of the following criteria:
(1) full-time equivalent status for their respective programs of study (12 credit hours in UG and DC and 9 credit hours in the Master's programs);
(2) submission of a complete application package by the published deadline date;
(3) letter of recommendation by a Faculty/Staff Advisor who has reviewed and agrees to support student work on the project (the advisor must be employed by Life University);
(4) satisfactory financial and academic standing with the university, and
(5) a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the time of application submission.

In addition to having a strong academic background, other characteristics of successful applicants include self-discipline, self-motivation, self-direction and commitment.

APPLYING FOR FUNDING:
Announcements of scholarship availability will be posted each quarter in *Life News*, as well as on the Financial Aid and CETL websites.

Applications will be due to CETL by 5PM on Monday of Week 7 of the quarter of your choice. Applications may be submitted electronically to CETL@Life.edu or by hand to the CETL offices located in the Learning Resource Center. If submitted by hand, you must have CETL staff sign for the day and time of application receipt.

In keeping with the Boyer (1990) model of scholarship, projects must fall into one of the following categories:
- Category I: *Discovery*, inclusive of basic, applied or clinical research.
- Category II: *Teaching & Learning*, inclusive of evidence-based approaches to curricula enhancement, education models/methods of delivery and student engagement.
- Category III: *Innovation*, inclusive of entrepreneurial and creative works.
- Category IV: *Application*, inclusive of community engagement/service which applies knowledge to real-world challenges.

ALL PROJECTS -- IRRESPECTIVE OF CATEGORY -- MUST SEEK TO EXPLORE A SPECIFIC QUESTION OR SOCIETAL CHALLENGE BASED ON A TESTABLE HYPOTHESIS AND UTILIZING METHODS APPROPRIATE TO THE DISCIPLINE.

ALL PROJECTS -- IRRESPECTIVE OF CATEGORY -- MUST IDENTIFY A PLATFORM FOR PEER-REVIEW PRESENTATION AND/OR PUBLICATION.

STUDENTS CAN DEVELOP THEIR OWN EVIDENCED-BASED PROJECTS OR WORK ON A NEW OR EXISTING STUDY WITH A LIFE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBER.

The application, which is downloadable through Blackboard, will consist of:
(1) **Cover Letter**, no longer than one page, that describes your background, past research or scholarly/creative work experience, your professional goals, and why you think you would make a good candidate for an CETL RISE award.
(2) **Letter of Recommendation** from the person who will serve as your mentor, who has knowledge of your strengths, background, and the research or scholarly related work you may have already done or your potential. The person should also indicate their commitment to communicate with you periodically to monitor your work, advise you as appropriate, help you identify the resources you need for your project to progress, and provide quarterly reports.
(3) **Proposal**, no longer than 6 pages, that provides:
    a) **Cover Sheet**
    b) **Project Summary**. No longer than one paragraph that summarizes the WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN, and HOW of your project.
    c) **Introduction/Background Info**. No longer than half-page that succinctly *contextualizes* and *defines the problem* and demonstrates your knowledge of the topic (especially through preliminary research/literature search)*.

d) **Rationale, Goals and Objectives**. Depending upon the nature of your project, this half-page section will include a question, hypothesis, and purpose to be addressed. You should also *define your approach to address* the problem (qualitative surveys and/or focus groups, participant observations, quantitative data gathering and analysis, mixed-methods, meta-analysis, systematic literature review), *why* you have selected this approach, and the *specific objectives* you hope to accomplish.

e) **Project Design and Timeline.** In no more than 3 pages, describe in greater detail *what* you will be doing*, when* it will happen, your *process* for research and/or development, and *how* you will evaluate and disseminate. For example, if you decide to create a 60-second Instagram video to teach elementary-school-aged children about chiropractic care, you would need to devote time to researching instructional approaches for youth in your target age group, map out the story board, write the script, create the video, edit the video, and test, refine and evaluate. As part of the dissemination process, you will also need to identify professional gatherings or publications where you might submit your work. Finally, as a full-time student, you would also need to factor in time for exams, breaks between quarters, and unanticipated delays.

f) **Anticipated Limitations**. In one paragraph discuss likely obstacles, additional training that you might need, and limitations of what can shown through this project?

g) **Relevance**. Discuss in one to two paragraphs how your project is relevant to the mission of Life University, to your chosen field of study, to your professional growth and to society more broadly.

h) **Existing and Needed Resources**. In this one-paragraph description, you should identify the funding, equipment, or other resources needed for your project (this is tentative and likely will be updated later as the project evolves). You should also indicate whether you have any current scholarship funding.

i) **Bibliographic References** cited in your introduction.

j) **Curriculum Vita or Résumé**.

Application Review:
All new and continuation applications will be reviewed by the Research Advisory Council, composed of a cross-representation of faculty and staff from academic and administrative units.

Applications will be reviewed against a set of metrics which assess the project's: (1) Intellectual Merit; (2) Design/Feasibility; (3) Benefit to Student Growth and Development; and (4) Relevance to the Mission of LIFE U. Each of the four listed categories will be rated on a scale of 0 to 3, with outstanding applications awarded a maximum of 12 points. Any application receiving a score of 9 or less or deemed inconsistent with the mission of Life University **WILL NOT** be eligible for funding.

The Research Advisory Council will make recommendations for awards. Final approval of scholarship recipients will be made by the Chief Academic Officer in consultation with the Director of CETL. Preference will be given to past RISE recipients and those applications that will satisfy the COC and CGUS disbursement requirements.

If awarded funding, the student must sign a Scholarship Agreement and provide the signed agreement to CETL before any funds are allocated. All scholarship recipients will be required to present their work at a campus forum.

Please contact the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning via email at CETL@Life.edu as needed.