

The Jerome S. Bruner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

Application Deadline October 18th, 2021

The Jerome S. Bruner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research will recognize an undergraduate in their senior year at Duke for excellence in research activities, intellectual curiosity, and future potential for scholarly activity. Special attention will be given to research completed during junior year and the summer between junior and senior years.

Eligible applicants will have engaged in psychological research, either as part of the Psychology major or under the supervision of a faculty member in Psychology & Neuroscience. To apply, applicants must submit (A) names and contact information for two faculty references (at least one of whom is a primary faculty member or member of the joint graduate training faculty in Psychology & Neuroscience), with an optional third reference from a post-doc or graduate student who has supervised the student's research; (B) a bulleted list of research activities, not to exceed one page in length, that identifies each lab the student has worked in, the research questions that were addressed, and the specific skills required by the work (e.g., data analysis using R, Qualtrics programming, MTurk data collection, animal handling); and (C) a one-page (single-spaced) essay. The essay should describe what the student is curious about, and indicate how research has helped to satisfy this curiosity. In addition, it should address the student's future plans relating to research. The award consists of a monetary prize and inclusion by name on a plaque in Zener Auditorium (Room 130 in the Reuben-Cooke Building). Application materials should be submitted to Angie Vieth at azvieth@duke.edu by 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 18th.



Jerome S. Bruner (1915-2016). Dr. Bruner was a distinguished Duke alumnus, who graduated as part of the class of 1937. Dr. Bruner described an undergraduate education marked by brilliant faculty, intellectual friends, Russian novels, and courses in anthropology, psychology, and sociology. He worked in a lab on East Campus, where he developed a love of research, and ultimately earned his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1941. An eminent psychologist, Dr. Bruner held faculty positions at Harvard and Oxford before ending his academic career at New York University. His work was crucial to the establishment of cognitive

psychology as a discipline, but was also remarkable for its breadth, with major contributions to learning theory, developmental psychology, and education.

Being granted the Bruner award is an important honor for any student who is passionate about research and scholarship.