The Scholars-in-Residence program provides research support for UofT faculty working in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. SiR enables participating faculty members to form multidisciplinary teams of 5 exceptional upper-year undergraduate researchers from a variety of academic disciplines and backgrounds. Students spend the month of May living in residence, working 20 hrs / week on faculty research projects and participating in extra-curricular activities. Faculty members are awarded research funds to support activities related to their project. Faculty supervisors are encouraged to share their experiences and strategies with colleagues, and are provided with a knowledge base for building undergraduate research into SSHRC and other grant proposals.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do faculty use their undergraduate researchers?

Supervisors have successfully employed their undergraduate research teams in strikingly different ways: Tasks have included conducting and analyzing interviews, researching and exploiting primary sources in on-line databases and libraries, producing annotated bibliographies, textual editing, creating digital maps, coding digital data sets, creating course syllabi, producing websites, digital exhibitions, podcasts and blog posts, writing abstracts and metadata, and devising / revising original research questions.

What are the concrete outcomes of faculty participation in the project?

Research outcomes include single and co-authored scholarly articles, précis and a wide range of background material for new scholarly monographs, essay abstracts, white papers, digital exhibitions, databases, websites, conference papers, materials for an exhibition, and book publications.

Can graduate students be involved with the undergraduate research teams?

Yes, some supervisors integrate their Scholars into research teams that also include graduate students, post-docs, and/or specialized training with workshop leaders. Supervisors have also successfully employed graduate students as project managers of research teams.
Can undergraduates successfully contribute to faculty research projects?

Participating supervisors have consistently indicated in project feedback that their experiences with their undergraduate research teams have been highly productive, gratifying, and have in many cases exceeded expectations.

How much time is required?

While student contact time varies dramatically according to the nature of the project, faculty supervisors are asked to commit a minimum of 6 hours per week in contact time during the 4-week project period.

What is the timeline for the project?

The call for faculty supervisors is now available. Faculty proposals consist of 1-page project descriptions and an explanation of how undergraduate research teams will contribute to the research project. Decisions are communicated to faculty in early December. The program itself runs for four weeks during the month of May.