

2026 Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities in RNA Biology

Fellowships are available to provide summer stipend support to OSU undergraduate students who are working full-time in Center for RNA Biology (CRB) faculty member labs. Applications will be accepted until **March 2, 2026**, and decisions will be announced by **April 1, 2026**. Five (5) fellowship positions will follow the eligibility criteria listed below. One additional fellowship (Daniel Schoenberg RNA undergraduate research fellowship) will be awarded based on additional criteria, as detailed on the next page.

Students who are interested in being considered both for the CRB fellowships and Schoenberg fellowship should indicate this by checking the box on the application form when it is submitted.

Fellowships will consist of a stipend of \$5000 to be awarded to support the student's full-time summer work in their OSU lab.

Eligibility:

1) Students must be currently (as of SP26) enrolled full-time at OSU and must have spent at least one academic semester performing research in the laboratory of a CRB faculty member. The same CRB faculty member must agree to be responsible for overseeing the student's summer research project.

2) Students must be planning to graduate no sooner than the end of AU 2026.

3) Student must be available for full-time research during at least 10 weeks of Summer 2026 with a suggested start date of **May 18, 2026**. Students must be available to participate in a poster session toward the end of their summer research fellowship. Enrollment in classes or other employment at OSU while being supported by the fellowship is not permitted.

Application Process:

1) Students must submit the following application materials as a single pdf document to Zack Mikesell (Mikesell.22@osu.edu) no later than **5pm on March 2, 2026**.

- Application form (complete the pdf form)
- Current CV
- Research statement (no more than 2 pages, double spaced, including description of current research, progress made to date, and work proposed to be completed during the summer fellowship period; figures are included in the page limit but references are not).
- Career statement (no more than 1 page, double spaced, including how the fellowship funding will help them to achieve these career goals)
- Current advising report

2) Students must arrange for **one** letter of recommendation from their faculty mentor, to be sent directly to Zack Mikesell (Mikesell.22@osu.edu) no later than **5pm on March 2, 2026**.

3) Application evaluation

- Applications will be evaluated by a committee of 3 CRB faculty, with the advisor of any applicant recused from evaluating his/her own student's application.
- Applicants who wish to be considered for the Schoenberg RNA fellowship must meet additional criteria detailed on the following page.

The Daniel Schoenberg RNA undergraduate research fellowship

The Daniel Schoenberg fellowship was initially established in 2017 by a generous donation to Ohio State University from the estate of Irene Schoenberg. This fellowship is used to provide support during the summer months for one outstanding undergraduate student who plans to pursue graduate studies in RNA research.

Eligibility:

In addition to meeting all eligibility criteria for the CRB summer fellowships detailed on the previous page, candidates must meet two additional criteria:

- 1) Candidates must have spent at least **one year** performing RNA research in the laboratory of a CRB faculty member.
- 2) Candidates for the fellowship must be **completing their third (junior) year of study**.

Application Process:

The application process for the Schoenberg fellowship follows the same format and deadlines indicated for the CRB fellowship on the previous page. A single application can be submitted by the student to be considered for both fellowships by checking the appropriate boxes on the application form.

In addition, since the fellowship is limited to supporting an undergraduate researcher who has the expressed goal of pursuing graduate study in RNA research, **the application must include a specific discussion in the career statement addressing this point.**

Application evaluations:

Applications will be evaluated by the same 3-person committee and on the same timeline for evaluating the CRB summer fellowships. Decisions will be made based on quality of the research proposal and support letter, and potential for the applicant to successfully pursue graduate study in RNA-related research.

Application Form for 2026 Center for RNA Biology/Schoenberg Summer fellowships

Please return this completed form along with all other requested application materials (CV, current copy of advising report, research statement and career statement) to Mikesell.22@osu.edu no later than **5 pm on March 2, 2026**

Name of applicant: _____

OSU name.#: _____

Anticipated OSU Graduation date: _____

Center for RNA Biology Faculty mentor: _____

How long have you been working in this CRB faculty member's lab? _____

Note: Please direct your faculty mentor to send your recommendation letter by email to Zack Mikesell (Mikesell.22@osu.edu) by March 2, 2026.

Check the boxes for all fellowships you wish to be considered for (see special eligibility requirements for the Schoenberg undergraduate research fellowship described on the previous page):

☐

Center for RNA Biology Summer Undergraduate Fellowship

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Dan Schoenberg Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Please direct any questions about the fellowship application process to Michael Kearse (kearse.3@osu.edu) or Zack Mikesell (Mikesell.22@osu.edu).