

Robertson Scholars Leadership Program Exploration Summer 2020

During Exploration Summer, you will get out of your comfort zone and take on challenges (physical, mental, intellectual) to meet well-designed intellectual pursuits. This approach to planning and implementing the second Robertson Summer will allow you to gain intellectual skills important for leadership.

Important Dates

October 30	Identify Exploration Mentor
November 13	Exploration Proposal First draft due*
December 18	Exploration Proposal Second draft due*
February 5	Exploration Proposal Third draft and budget due*
March 23	Final Exploration Proposal Packet due*

*Subject to Late Fees (See About Funding below)

Steps to an Exploration Summer

Find a Mentor. You must identify an Exploration Mentor to guide your work. This person must not be a current undergraduate or a family member. The resource page has documents to help you find a mentor. You must confirm this person with the program by October 30.

Determine your intended intellectual pursuits and develop a plan. Organize and clarify (1) what you plan to achieve in terms of an intellectual pursuit or pursuits, (2) how you can achieve those through physical, mental, and/or intellectual challenges, (3) what hypothesis will guide each activity, and (4) what deliverable you will submit to the Program for each. We do not expect that every intellectual pursuit meets every type of challenge, but we do expect your overall Exploration Summer to include all three.

Propose your project. Finally, you will write a series of project and budget proposals that will receive feedback from the Program. This system of successive proposals and feedback illustrates the significant work that goes into a well-conceived Exploration Summer project. You will use online templates to describe how you will achieve each of your proposed intellectual pursuits and how you propose to fund them.

What to do RIGHT NOW

1. Approach potential mentors to have someone on board soon. A mentor can be a faculty person, someone connected to a relevant organization, an alum—there are many possibilities. A mentor cannot be a family member or any current undergraduate. A separate document to share with potential mentors *if you wish* is on this resource page. *You must have a confirmed mentor by October 30.*
2. The resource page has the links for Duke's Restricted Regions List and the State Department list as used by UNC. Duke Scholars must follow Duke's policies. UNC Scholars must follow policies for both schools. Check now to be sure the places you might want to go are available to you.
3. Refer to your 3-2-1 Reflection as a reminder of what you learned during Community Summer.
4. Talk to peers to see if anyone has similar ideas and might want to collaborate.

5. Read the materials on the resource pages (especially the lists of previous Exploration and Launch projects), pay attention to email and bulletin announcements, and talk with older Scholars and alumni who have done relevant summer activities.

What we'll want to know

You will address at least this basic set of questions over time in successive drafts using the templates we will provide for you. We do not expect complete information at the beginning.

About your project

- How is your mentor participating in the planning and implementation of your project?
- What intellectual pursuit(s) are you planning to achieve? If more than one, describe the first here. We do not require that you take on more than one intellectual pursuit. *You will answer all the questions below for each intended intellectual pursuit.*
 - How will you challenge yourself (physically, intellectually, mentally) to achieve this pursuit? What will you actually do? We do not expect that every intellectual pursuit meets every type of challenge, but we do expect your overall summer to include all three.
 - Where will you be and when?
 - What is your hypothesis?
 - What deliverable will you submit to indicate that you have achieved your pursuit?
 - Give as much information as you can about transportation, housing, etc. What unanswered questions remain?
 - How have your classes, Community Summer, and other activities prepared you?
 - As far as you can tell now, how might this project connect to your junior year and third summer?

About funding and late fees

You may request up to \$6300. The budget template you will complete is on the resource page, along with materials to help with budget preparation. To receive full funding, you must adhere to the deadlines set out by the Program. Beginning with the first proposal deadline of November 13, your available funding will be reduced by 20% of your requested budget *for each summer deadline that you miss*. If you request \$6300, you will lose \$1260 for every missed deadline.

Other procedural details

- You will need to provide information about the closest hospital and embassy or consulate (for international settings)
- Every Scholar traveling internationally will register his or her trip with Duke. UNC Scholars will also register with UNC. [This page](#) has all the information.
- Scholars traveling internationally will turn in a copy of their passports.
- Scholars traveling internationally will attend the Global Orientation at UNC in April.