



# 2024 Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship

**Purpose:** To foster the development of the next generation of medical researchers.

**The Opportunity:** Financial support for research to be conducted either during a continual period of a minimum of 8 to 10 weeks; 30 hours or more per week; or an average of 4 hours per week for 12 months over a period of 1 to 2 years. The research should focus on clinical investigation, basic laboratory research, epidemiology, social science/health services research, leadership, or professionalism.

Funds from the fellowship are expected to be the major source of support for the student.

Only one candidate from each school may be nominated.

A student may only receive one fellowship during medical school.

**The Award:** \$6,000, of which \$2,500 will be paid on announcement of the award, and \$2,500 will be paid after receipt and approval of the final research report.

In addition, each student will be reimbursed a maximum of \$1,000 to cover travel expenses related to the presentation of his/her Fellowship research results at a national meeting or conference that takes place within one year of distribution of the final check. Within 60 days following the travel, students will need to complete and submit the reimbursement form found on AQA's website along with a copy of the conference registration form or agenda and all related receipts.

**Eligibility:** First and second-year, medical students from schools with active AQA Chapters, or Associations, are eligible. Students must be actively enrolled in medical school classes. Students taking a year off for research or to gain a PhD are not eligible. PhD holders are not eligible.

**Application Deadlines:** Proposals must first be submitted to the student's AQA Chapter Councilor for review and consideration. Each Chapter Councilor may set his/her deadline for submission. The final application must be submitted online through the AQA website by **January 23, 2024**. Email submissions will not be accepted.

**Proposal to Councilors:** Councilors and their selection committees will select one proposal for submission. The proposal must include:

1. The completed application which is found under the "download the checklist" button above on this page. Application may be more than one page;

2. A summary (four or fewer pages) of the research project written by the applicant, single-spaced, in 12-point type with 1-inch margins, as follows: title, hypothesis, rationale, background information, methods and sample size, plan for data analysis, potential significance, role of the student in preparation and execution of the project, an estimate of the number of hours/weeks that the student will devote to the project, and an acronym definition list;
3. The project bibliography;
4. Proof of IRB or IACUC approval, no longer than 2 pages. Please do not include the whole IRB/IACUC submission;
5. The student's CV (no more than 3-4 pages);
6. A letter of support from the faculty mentor/research supervisor indicating his/her commitment of time and interest to the project and student; and
7. The faculty mentor/research supervisor's biographical sketch (3-4 pages – see NIH format for an example). *Please do not send the mentor's complete CV.*

**Application:** Applications must be submitted online through the AQA and must include all above mentioned items, along with:

1. A letter of endorsement from the AQA Councilor; and
2. A Dean's endorsement letter that should include comments on the student's achievements and potential, and the suitability of the faculty mentor/research supervisor.

**The Review Process:** An AQA committee will evaluate each proposal, and may request additional information. All members of the application packet (Councilor, mentor, and Dean) who are AQA members, must have paid their current annual dues or lifetime dues for active status.

**Date of Award Announcement:** Winning awards will be announced **May 3, 2024**.

**Other Important Information:**

1. IRB or IACUC approval must be received before awarded applications can be funded.
2. No later than **June 30, 2025**, all recipients must submit a detailed final research report (minimum of four pages) to AQA. The report must include the title, original hypothesis, and a description of the methods, discussions, results, and conclusions. After approved by the review panel the remaining funds of \$2,500 will be sent to the student.
3. Any publication of the AQA-supported research project must contain the following acknowledgment: "Supported in part by an Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship."

4. Each chapter that submits a Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship application is required to review a submission from another school. We will contact the AQA Chapter Councilor to set this up.
5. AQA is committed to upholding a high standard of professionalism, compassion, and humanism in medicine. Patients should be treated with dignity and their privacy respected. We will not accept submissions that conflict with these values, or contain bigotry, or highly politicized content.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### ***How do I find out who my school's AQA Councilor is?***

On the AQA website under the [Chapters](#) or [Associations](#) tab.

#### ***What is the deadline for submitting my proposal to my school's AQA Councilor?***

This date is set by each school's Councilor. Contact your school's AQA Councilor for her/his submission deadline.

#### ***How many Fellowships are awarded each year?***

AQA funds all fellowships in accordance with the review committee's recommendations. There is no set limit.

#### ***Are there restrictions as to how the award money should be used?***

The award money may be used at the recipient's discretion.

#### ***Is a student restricted to doing the research project in the summer months?***

No, it is up to the student's and the school's scheduling. However, the student is required to complete the project and submit a final report to AQA by June 30 of the year following receipt of the Fellowship.

#### ***Does the student applying for the research fellowship have to complete the research at the same institution they are attending when they receive the award?***

No, the research can be completed at any institution as long as the student has a specific mentor who is willing to support his/her research project. If the mentor and student are at different institutions a detailed accounting of how, where, and when the two will work together must be included in the submission. If this is not included the submission will be rejected.

#### ***If a school has two outstanding proposals, can the Councilor submit both?***

No, only one proposal from each school may be submitted.

#### ***Can a student accept additional funding from another organization on the same project?***

Yes, as long as the AQA funds are the major source of support for the student's research.

**Questions should be directed to** Libby Appel at [studentresearch@alphaomegaalpha.org](mailto:studentresearch@alphaomegaalpha.org), or 720-859-4149

# Application: AΩA Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship

Place your cursor in a box and type. The box will expand as needed. Tab to the next box. **Print completed form & include with submission packet.**

Mr/Ms/Mrs:		First name:		Last name:	
Address:				Cell phone:	
E-mail:				Year of graduation:	
Title of proposal:					
School:					
Councilor name(s) & address:				E-mail:	
AΩA chapter admin name (optional):				E-mail:	
Mentor name(s):				E-mail:	
Mentor address:					
Dean's name:				E-mail:	
Dean address:					

## Checklist for submission to AΩA Councilor:

Item						File Name
Completed application						1-Application.pdf
Four-page summary (single-spaced, 12 point type, 1-inch margins)						2-Summary.pdf
	Title		Background information		Potential significance	
	Hypothesis		Method and sample size		Student's role and estimate of time	
	Rationale		Plan for data analysis		Acronym definition list	
Bibliography of the project						3-Biblio.pdf
IRB or IACUC required? (Y or N)						
IRB or IACUC approval, or proof of application (do not include the complete submission)						4-Approval.pdf
Student's curriculum vitae						5-StudentCV.pdf
Letter of support from faculty mentor/research supervisor						6-MentorLtr.pdf
Faculty/mentor research supervisor's biographical sketch (do not send the complete CV)						7-MentorBio.pdf

## Checklist for submission to National Office (by January 23<sup>rd</sup>):

Letter of endorsement from AΩA councilor						8-CouncilorLtr.pdf
Letter of endorsement from the dean, including comments about suitability of faculty advisor						9-DeanLtr.pdf

**Questions:** Contact Libby Appel at 720-859-4149 or visit: [alphaomegaalpha.org/student\\_research.html](http://alphaomegaalpha.org/student_research.html).