



BRITE Scholar Awards 2024: Fall Semester

The Biomedical Research, Innovation, Training, and Employment (BRITE) Consortium at Sam Houston State University announces the continuation of an undergraduate research funding opportunity, the BRITE Scholar Awards for Fall 2024. The fall 2024 funding opportunity has an application deadline of March 31st, 2024, and awardees will be notified of a decision no later than May 1st, 2024.

Funding: Each student will receive a \$2500 award (as a scholarship) for participating in the research project with a faculty mentor during Fall 2024 and an additional \$500 maximum per student is available to fund student research supplies/reagents/conference travel as justified in the application. Funding must be spent no later than December 31st, 2024.

Eligibility: Full-time undergraduate students engaged in research across a wide range of **Biomedical Sciences** and enrolled at SHSU during the fall semester of 2024 are eligible to apply. In this context, “**Biomedical Research**” is defined and used broadly to encompass many fields in the life, health, and biomedical sciences based on the inclusive use of the term for National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grants, where it includes biomedical, biomedical engineering, clinical, behavioral, and social science research relevant to human health and can be broken into many subfields that are listed in the NIH Data Book (<https://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/page/field-classification>). At SHSU, this may include students engaged in research in biomedical, biochemical, bioengineering, psychology, environmental toxicology, medicine, public health, nutrition, chemistry, etc.

A total of five undergraduate students will receive awards. Students who will simultaneously be awarded for any other undergraduate research funding (excluding travel grants) from SHSU for fall 2024 are ineligible to receive BRITE Scholar Awards. The awardee will be required to participate in the Monthly Career Preparation Seminar Series of the BRITE consortium.

Selection criteria: A competitive selection process will grant students the BRITE Scholar Award. An interdisciplinary committee will evaluate and prioritize funding applications based on the following criteria:

- The student's eligibility and interest in biomedical research are described in their statement of interest.
- Design, feasibility, and budgetary plan of the research project's plan.
- Significance of the expected results/outcome to the discipline
- Potential contributions the project will make to the student's future studies and/or future careers.
- While a holistic view of the application materials will be taken, the student should be in good academic standing at the time of the award.

Application Process: Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on March 31, 2024, and **must** include the following:

1. Application form (attached)
2. A written statement of interest (1 page).
3. Student's resume or CV (no longer than 2 pages).
4. A research proposal includes the project's background, objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, significance, and timeline. (3-page limit)
5. Works cited page (as needed, does not count toward the 3-page limit).
6. Budget for supplies/reagents and justification (form attached).
7. Brief letter of recommendation from the faculty member overseeing the project describing the applicant's qualifications and mentoring support they will receive from the faculty member during the award's duration. The letter should be sent to brite@shsu.edu with the applicant's name and "BRITE Scholar Award Fall 2024" in the subject line.

Note – The student applicant is highly encouraged to discuss the research proposal's contents with the proposed faculty mentor to receive constructive feedback and input from the mentor or research peers. The research proposal should describe an overarching goal and plan. While the inclusion of general methods can enhance the narrative, a detailed experimental protocol is considered too detailed and is not necessary.

All the documents (except the graphs/image legends) must use a font no smaller than 11-pt and 1" page margins. If any graphs/image legends are used, they must be clear and readable.

These documents must be merged into a single PDF file and sent by email to BRITE consortium's official e-mail address (brite@shsu.edu) with "BRITE Scholar Award Fall 2024" as the subject line by 5:00 pm on March 31st, 2024.

Outcomes: Each awarded student is required to submit a final report to BRITE consortium co-directors that includes:

- A PDF document (1 page) written by the faculty mentor that briefly describes the progress and findings of the awarded student's research project.
- Reflection report (1 page) and an exit survey from each awardee outlining the outcome/achievements of the project and the project's impact on his or her professional career development.
- Student awardees are expected to present their research findings at the SHSU Undergraduate Research Symposium and at state, national, or international conferences.

The final report is due by December 31st, 2024. Failure to submit the report by the deadline may result in the faculty mentor and students being ineligible for future BRITE Scholar funding.

Note – If the funded project is subjected to Institutional Review Board (IRB), institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), and or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol approval, those approvals must be received before funds can be distributed. Applicants are also responsible for completing relevant CITI training and certifications before starting work. Detailed guidelines for application to IRB, IBC, and IACUC protocols are available on the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs website at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/office-of-research-and-sponsored-programs/>.

This program is possible due to the generous support of the SHSU BRIDGE grant program from the SHSU Provost Innovation Fund. As a grant funds this program, the award dollar amounts and number of awards are contingent on receiving the expected grant funds that pay for the program.