



University of Idaho Tribal Research Scholar Support (TRSS)

Overview: The Tribal Research Scholar Support (TRSS) program is designed to build capacity between University of Idaho and Tribal nations by supporting master's and doctoral-level graduate research on Tribally relevant topics.

The TRSS program engages students in STEM areas (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) to harness expertise on issues related to Indigenous research. The program is also synergistic with an overarching program of support that includes the Tribal Nation Research Network (TNRN), a component of the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Track 1 RII project, *Idaho Community-engaged Resilience for Energy-Water Systems*, or I-CREWS. The I-CREWS project emphasizes community engagement and the co-production of knowledge and is designed to recenter knowledge exchange between Tribes and Idaho universities, focusing on collaboration through the development of Tribally originated research.

Eligible scholars can receive up to 3 years support for doctoral programs and 2 years support for master's programs, contingent on satisfactory annual performance, to engage in Tribal research opportunities. Each TRSS opportunity is designed to help the student achieve their academic and career goals.

TRSS Eligibility: All Idaho STEM students currently enrolled, or admitted, in a master's or doctoral program at University of Idaho are eligible. Postdocs are ineligible to apply.

TRSS Application & Selection Process:

- Faculty who wish to access TRSS funding to support a graduate scholar should submit when ready, however, no later than **August 3rd** (for Fall 2026) and **December 2nd** (for Spring 2027). Please note the preferred start date.
- Faculty should submit their research support request to Idaho NSF EPSCoR (rschumak@uidaho.edu).
 - In support request, faculty applicants must provide a cover email with attached recommendation letter and student statement (in PDF form). See "Application Procedure" below for details.
 - Please note that only faculty are allowed to apply. Graduate students interested in serving as a Tribal Research Scholar must have a supervising faculty member apply on their behalf.
- Idaho NSF EPSCoR staff manages applications and forwards them to a committee for consideration.
- Committee reviews applications and meets to discuss eligibility and whether the award is being used for the intended purpose.
- Once approvals have been made, we will contact faculty applicants with an award decision.

Application Procedure:

Applicants should provide a cover email with attached recommendation letter and student statement (in PDF form). See below for details.

A cover email (with PDF file attached)

Cover email from faculty member should include student's name, email, and enrollment status (in current U of I graduate program), and the supervising faculty member/department. The subject line should read "The Tribal Research Scholar Support program".

The PDF file must include the following items:

a) Faculty recommendation letter **please limit to two pages or less*

Within the faculty recommendation letter, particular emphasis should be placed on evidence of the student's high potential for achievement in scholarly or creative activity and on the student's potential for future success appropriate to the Tribal research initiatives. One of the eligible STEM thematic areas must be identified. The letter should describe the amount and source of additional compensation or other support, if any, the student is receiving.

b) Student statement **please limit to two pages or less*

Student should provide a statement addressing current academic experience, GPA, and future career goals.

- Each application must be submitted electronically by the nominating faculty member as a single Acrobat PDF file to sarahp@uidaho.edu. Applications accepted on an ongoing basis until further notice.

Contact Information:

For more information contact Rick Schumaker, Idaho NSF EPSCoR Associate Project Director, at rschumak@uidaho.edu.