The Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) invites applications from graduate students and medical residents wishing to conduct a multidisciplinary research project in occupational or environmental health. Teaching, service, community intervention, and policy projects will also be considered. The purpose is to encourage students to work in teams with students from other disciplines in order to better address real world problems.

Eligibility
Competition is open to currently registered graduate students or medical residents ("students"). One of the students' faculty advisors must be affiliated with COEH. See the COEH website at coeh.berkeley.edu for profiles of COEH faculty and programs. A minimum of two students and two disciplines is required, and highest priority will be given to projects involving more than one campus (COEH programs are located at Berkeley, Davis, and San Francisco). Students are expected to meet with their faculty advisors on a regular basis to obtain input and keep them informed of their progress. Faculty advisors are expected to actively mentor the project and approve the final report.

Award Amount & Project Time Period
Projects will be funded up to $5,000 for up to 10 months, starting between June and December. An extension will be considered if students will be present to complete the project after the academic year ends. An extension is contingent upon receipt of a brief progress report.

Submission Procedures
Letter of Intent (strongly recommended):
Letters of intent are particularly useful for students who would like assistance or early feedback on their project proposal. Issues might include finding a partner, gaining workplace access, or getting approval to work with human or animal subjects. Letters should briefly describe the project, identify the issue/s requiring assistance, and be co-signed by the lead student's faculty advisor.

Finding Partners
The Award Advisory Committee and your faculty advisor can assist you in finding appropriate partners from another discipline. COEH can broadcast your request for a partner to the students in other programs. Do not let finding a partner be a stumbling block!

Timeline

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* Campus IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval required for projects working with humans or vertebrate animals.

Links to campus protocol compliance information available at:
http://coeh.berkeley.edu/students/studentaward_protocol.htm

This announcement, application, and sample project proposals are available on our website at coeh.berkeley.edu.
Application:
Submit the application form, project description (about five pages), budget, budget justification, and a strategy for seeking access to a work site, if applicable. The project description should include: abstract; statement of significance; specific objectives, relevance to occupational and environmental health, background, methodology, timeline, and role of each student involved.

Allowable Expenses
Project costs may include equipment, supplies and travel. Salary will be considered if it enables a student to reduce work commitments. Equipment purchased becomes University property. The review committee may require budget revisions.

Review Criteria
Research projects will be judged on scientific merit. Teaching, service, community intervention, and policy projects will be judged on their impact on the target audience.

Program Priorities
• Field and laboratory studies that evaluate adverse health effects and/or exposure to hazardous agents in occupational and community settings.
• Risk assessments that use existing information to quantitatively estimate exposure to hazardous agents among occupational and community groups, and the consequent risk of adverse health effects.
• Survey studies using questionnaires or interviews to gather new or updated information on occupational and environmental health hazards and controls.
• Policy analyses of alternatives for addressing occupational and environmental health problems.
• Methodological studies of innovative service delivery to high risk, vulnerable workers or employer groups.

Final Report and Presentation
Each team must produce a brief final project report including a financial report showing how the funds were spent. The report must be reviewed and signed by at least one faculty advisor, generally the lead student’s. The teams will be invited to present their findings at a COEH event.

Application Submission
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Additional Information
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COEH website: coeh.berkeley.edu