

IWRS Student Research Award in Sentience

Purpose: The Insect Welfare Research Society aims to encourage graduate student scholars engaging in evidence-based, theoretically-grounded research on any aspect of insect or understudied invertebrate¹ sentience (subjective experiences). This award will be given to a graduate student whose research has the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of sentience in these taxonomic groups.

Nature: This \$2,000 award shall be given annually to a graduate student conducting research related to insect or understudied invertebrate¹ sentience. Award funds can be used for research/scholastic expenses or as stipend assistance to support the student as they work.

Eligibility: Any currently enrolled graduate (MS, MA, PhD, etc.) student conducting research focused on insect or understudied invertebrate¹ sentience is eligible, so long as they have not yet defended their thesis. Applicants from a range of disciplines (philosophy, comparative cognition, economics, entomology, marine biology, welfare science, agricultural science, environmental science, neuroscience, animal behavior, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

- Although there is no restriction on the nationality of individuals that may apply, we will not pay awards to recipients located in (or for research that will take place in) jurisdictions, countries, or regions of the world subject to trade restrictions, embargoes, or sanctions put in place by the United Nations or the United States of America.

Note: We strongly recommend all applicants attend or view our webinar on the student grants program, which will cover 1) the rubric used by the awards committee to evaluate your proposal and 2) the IWRS' ethical guidelines for research (see the "student awards" page on the IWRS website for more details on the time/location of the webinar and to access the rubric; see the "ethical research guidelines" page for the research guidelines that can assist you in filling out your Ethical Conduct of Live Animal Research Statement, if applicable).

Report: A condition of the grant is that the recipient must provide a report on the results of their research within two years of receiving the grant. It is preferred that the recipient give a talk on their research at an IWRS meeting or in the seminar series; however, at the Director's discretion, they may instead provide a one-page written report of their results that can be shared with the IWRS community.

¹ Decapod crustaceans, isopods, arachnids, other terrestrial and marine arthropods are all considered understudied by the IWRS at this time. If you are not sure if the taxa you study will be considered fundable by the IWRS, please contact grants@insectwelfare.com for further information.

Proposal Instructions

Page One: COVER PAGE with identifying information: name, position, university affiliation [including department and address], email; advisor's name, affiliation, and email. **Pages 1 + 2 should be the only places with identifying information.** Please list how you found the award.

Page Two: Please have your research advisor(s) read and sign the 'SUPPORT LETTER' found at the end of this document. This signed letter will serve as page 2 of your application.

Page Three: One page RESEARCH PROPOSAL², single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font. This page should include:

1. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE (20 words or less)
2. INTRODUCTION that reviews the relevant literature for the committee to understand your scholarship and its anticipated contributions to the literature of your discipline.
3. PROJECT AIMS that include a) clearly stated goal(s); b) species/taxa of interest; c) justification of chosen methodology (if applicable).
4. FEASIBILITY. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate your project is feasible, including a brief timeline, what resources are required for your project to succeed, and where you will get them (including any contributing role this grant will play in accessing resources). If your research includes fieldwork, please document that you will have the appropriate permissions/permits for your work.

Page Four: ROUGH BUDGET of how the \$2000 of award funds, with a one paragraph justification of how the funds will be spent in furtherance of the project's scholastic aims.

Page Five: One page IMPACT STATEMENT describing the anticipated impact of your work and any expertise/qualifications you have that support this impact. Impact should be broadly conceived, and may include: contributions to the lives of insects, educational impacts, theoretical, methodological, or social/cultural contributions, or other impacts not described here.

Page Six: CITATIONS for the research proposal and impact statement.

Page Seven (and beyond): ETHICAL CONDUCT OF LIVE ANIMAL RESEARCH STATEMENT. If your project *does not* involve live animals (defined as organisms belonging to the kingdom Animalia), please simply provide the following statement: "This proposal does not involve the study of any live animals and is exempt from ethical review." If you are unsure if your project qualifies as exempt, please email grants@insectwelfare.com for guidance.

If your project *does* involve the use of live animals, please fill out the 'Ethical Conduct of Live Animal Research Statement' form found on the awards page and amend it to the end of your proposal. The IWRS's ethical guidelines for the conduct of insect research and the IWRS's student grant webinar are resources for students that are looking for guidance on filling out these forms.

² Please note that citations should be referenced in text as (Author et al. YEAR), but full citation information should be included on Page 6.



Submission Instructions: Proposals are due October 30, 2023. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered. The proposal should be sent as a single PDF attachment, including all components listed under 'Proposal Instructions' below *in order*, to grants@insectwelfare.com with the subject line 'Insect Sentience Proposal – YOUR LAST NAME'.

The awards committee aims to announce the winner within 4-6 weeks of the proposal due date.

Please direct any questions about the award to grants@insectwelfare.com; expect a response within five business days.



Letter of Support

I, (advisor name), a (position) at (institution) commit to supporting (student applicant name) in conducting the project listed within this insect sentience award proposal. This includes providing access to financial resources/supplies/equipment, travel support, mentorship, methodological or theoretical guidance, and other supports required for the project's completion, including anything required that is not covered by the IWRS award.

Additionally, I commit to providing the feedback and/or guidance necessary to assist the student applicant in preparing their IWRS seminar talk or report, and any other publications/products of the scholarship funded by the award.

Finally, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the materials within this proposal.

(signature)

(date)