

BIO 398 Research Contract



Student instructions

For those completing Independent Research for the first time:

1. Use the mentor list (available in the biology office) to identify potential mentors whose research interests you.
2. Contact potential mentors to determine if they are accepting BIO 398 students and if you are eligible to join their lab. Potential mentors may ask about what courses you have completed, your GPA, your time commitment, etc.
3. Set up a meeting with the faculty member to discuss potential projects.
4. In consultation with your mentor, answer the three questions below that describe your proposed work.
5. Have your mentor review your project description and complete the back of this form.

For those continuing Independent research from a previous semester:

1. Write "Continuation" on the contract and complete the form. You do not need to answer the project questions.

Return completed contracts to 101 THM BEFORE NOON on the add/drop date. You will receive email confirmation and instructions for registration if your project is approved. At that time, you will need to register for the course in myUK. If the contract is not approved, we will contact you or your research mentor.

To be completed by the student:

Student name: _____ **Student ID #:** _____ **UK email:** _____

Academic session in which research will take place (Circle one)

Fall Spring 4-week Summer Session I 8- week Summer Session II **Year:** _____

Credit Hours* (Circle one) 1 2 3

*Note: During the Fall and Spring semesters, students are generally expected to work on their projects at least **three hours per week for every one credit hour earned**. Discuss specific time commitments with your mentor.

Answer the following three questions in consultation with your mentor.

1. What is the main question your project will address? What is your hypothesis or driving principle?

2. What types of experiments will you perform? Include brief technical details.

3. What might the results of your experiments be? How could these results support or refute your hypothesis or contribute to knowledge in the field?

By signing below, I acknowledge that I will be completing at least 4500 words of formal writing as part of this course and that I will work with my research mentor to get feedback about my writing and incorporate it into a final assignment that will be turned in to the Biology department. I understand that I will not receive a grade for this course until the writing assignment is received by the Biology department.

Student signature: _____

To be completed by the research mentor:

Mentor name: _____ **Department:** _____ **UK email:** _____

Please indicate what activities (and their weighting) will be used in the determination of the student's grade. (ex: Attendance 25%, oral presentation 25%, final paper 50%, etc).

4500 words of writing including feedback and revision= _____% (minimum 20% if enrolling in 3 credit hours, minimum 50% if enrolling in 2 credit hours, minimum 75% if enrolling in 1 credit hour)

Research mentors agree to provide lab space, resources and guidance. Guidance includes safety training as well as training in skills required to complete the project. Mentors will be asked to grade the student's work based on the activities above. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have reviewed and approve of the project description.

By signing below, you acknowledge that your student will be completing at least 4500 words of formal writing as part of this course and that you will work with the student to give him/her feedback, which will be incorporated it into a final assignment that will be turned in to the Biology department. You understand that students will not receive a grade for this course until the writing assignment is received by the Biology department.

Mentor signature: _____

Note: Completion of 6 hours of BIO 398 (or 395) research is one of the requirements for the Biology Scholars program. To determine your eligibility, please see the Biology Scholars document for a description of other requirements.

For additional information, please contact the Biology Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Jennifer Osterhage, Jennifer.osterhage@uky.edu, 257-9322, or Taylor Sarratt, taylor.m.sarratt@uky.edu, 218-4875