



**RUTGERS**

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Senator Walter Rand Institute  
for Public Affairs

## **Walter Rand Institute Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Research Initiatives**

### **Call for Proposals: Research in South Jersey**

#### **Guidelines for Submission**

Proposal Deadline: April 30, 2023

Notification of Award: June 2, 2023

Projected Start Date: July 1, 2023

Project must be completed by June 30, 2024

#### **WRI Background and Purpose**

The [Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs](#) (WRI) at Rutgers-Camden has been a long-standing and trusted community partner for over 20 years. It honors former Senator Rand's dedication to Southern New Jersey communities and exists for two main reasons - to produce and highlight research leading to sound public policy and practice and, with that as a foundation, to convene and engage stakeholders in making the connections across research, policy, and practice in support of Southern New Jersey residents.

Providing high-quality, applied research and evaluation as well as a venue for public, private and nonprofit leaders to engage constructively on challenging issues, WRI has explored an array of community issues related to population and public health, social service delivery, education, workforce development, and more. These projects have connected scores of Rutgers students with valuable opportunities to enhance their education with real-world research experience.



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Since its inception, the Walter Rand Institute has reflected Rutgers' teaching and service mission by connecting Rutgers-Camden faculty and students with public administrators, elected officials, non-profit organizations, and community leaders to address the real-world challenges that shape the lives of citizens in Southern New Jersey and beyond. Students at WRI participate in projects under the supervision of WRI full time staff, assisting with research and data collection, writing, and neutral convening of community stakeholder groups.

## **Overview: Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Research Initiatives**

In an effort to encourage and support more original research about Southern New Jersey, WRI established a Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Research Initiatives in 2016. Recipients are known as Graduate Research Scholars --they receive this scholarship to pursue research of significance in Southern New Jersey, and in return, receive funding to support their tuition.

Eligible proposals include, but are not limited to, extending a Rutgers- Camden student's existing capstone, thesis, or dissertation project to include either a Southern New Jersey population, a geographic region in Southern New Jersey, or a topic of particular concern to residents of Southern New Jersey.

The research project is expected to commence in summer, 2023 and last for one year, with a completion date of June 30, 2024. The Graduate Research Scholar will be awarded a \$5,000 contribution toward tuition for this research project, to be paid in a \$2,500 installment near the start of the Fall 2023 semester. If the student performs all tasks satisfactorily, the student will be paid the final \$2,500 installment at the beginning of the Spring 2024 semester. If at any time during the award period a student fails to reasonably meet the necessary project milestones and/or scholarship requirements, the student will be required to return all disbursed funding to WRI. Provided the Graduate Research Scholar continues to meet eligibility requirements, the scholarship may be renewed once at the discretion of WRI's Director.



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## **Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

Currently enrolled Rutgers University – Camden full-time graduate students in good academic standing (3.0 GPA or higher) are eligible to apply.

## **Application Process**

As part of the application process, the following are required:

- Research Project Proposal
  - Overview and Project Description
  - Methodology/Process
  - Anticipated Outcome of the Research Project
  - Timeline
  - References
  - Resume or CV
  - Letter of Recommendation

The Graduate Research Scholar will be selected by a committee made up of WRI Advisory Board Members, WRI's Director, and WRI staff.

Upon completion of the research project, recipients are also expected to present their results at a community forum organized by WRI, at the Annual WRI Awards and Scholarship Dinner, or a WRI Advisory Board Meeting. Attendance at the Awards and Scholarship dinner, which is held in the late spring 2024, is required.

## **Proposal Requirements and Instructions**

Please use the following proposal structure. Please ensure that your proposal is no longer than 3 - 5 double-spaced pages. There is no content area of focus requirement - any community-focused research question that focuses on Southern New Jersey, in full or focused on a smaller geographic location within the region, will be considered.



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- *Overview and Project Description*
  - Briefly describe the background and significance of the project. Please clearly state this proposed project's significance.
  - Describe the research project to be completed. Describe your research questions and the data you will collect and analyze.
  
- *Methodology/Process*
  - Describe the design of the research project and the methods/procedures to be used or activities to be engaged in to accomplish this project. Detail the steps by which data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
  
- *Anticipated Outcome of the Research Project*
  - List the expected outcomes, including what you expect to learn and what others will learn. Describe how you will prepare a report, white paper, or other publication of your findings. You will also need to prepare a presentation (e.g., PowerPoint). Please keep in mind the audience that you will be preparing these findings to share (e.g., policy makers, practitioners, community members, academics, university leadership, fellow students).
  
- *Timeline (one page maximum)*
  - Projects are expected to begin in July 2023 and must be completed by June 30, 2024. The timeline should reflect these beginning and ending dates.
  
- *References*
  - This section must include appropriate and relevant literature citations mentioned in the sections above. References should be in APA format.
  
- *Resume or CV*
  - Please submit a resume or CV.



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- Letter of Recommendation
  - Please obtain one letter of recommendation. This letter should address the significance of the project to the student as well as the qualifications of the student to complete the research project.

\*\*Note that proposals submitted after the deadline date or incomplete proposals will not be considered.\*\*

## Work Location

The **Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Research Initiatives** recipient will be required to collaborate with the WRI Associate Director of Research and other WRI researchers. The recipient is expected to complete this work using a hybrid method (e.g., work at WRI (on-site) and remotely).

## Proposal Submission

Interested students should submit proposals via email by 5pm on Friday, April 30, 2023. Please send your proposal to [wrand@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:wrand@camden.rutgers.edu) with the subject line *Walter Rand Institute Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Research Initiatives*. Please copy [krcurtis@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:krcurtis@camden.rutgers.edu).

Questions should be directed to:

**Kristin Curtis, MA (she/her)**

Associate Director of Research

Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs

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