SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

BSOS Summer Research Initiative (SRI)
Supplemental Application Personal Statement Instructions

Purpose of the Supplemental Application Personal Statement

A supplemental personal statement is required for consideration for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) Summer Research Initiative (SRI). Our required supplemental personal statement gives you an opportunity to provide a more detailed explanation of your training and career goals beyond that which you provided in the shorter BTAA personal statement. The personal statement helps us better understand how your training and career goals align with the specific mission of our program. Your BSOS SRI supplemental personal statement should **expand upon** the short personal statements you submitted in the BTAA SROP application portal.

Please limit your supplemental BSOS SRI personal statement to a maximum of 1,200 words (no more than two single-spaced, letter-sized pages, with 1" margins and 12-point font, either Times New Roman or Arial). Elements of the BSOS SRI personal statement instructions are unique to our program's mission, therefore, please read the supplemental statement instructions carefully.

Supplemental Personal Statement Instructions

The goal of the BSOS SRI is to increase knowledge of, and interest in, doctoral-level training in the social and behavioral sciences. We are especially interested in those who plan to pursue careers in academia, or as social scientists in other research, teaching, policy, and clinical or public service settings. In 1,200 words or less, please provide a personal statement that explains your **(A)** graduate education and career goals, as well as **(B)** how your research and your career will contribute to addressing important social and behavioral science problems – we call it your "*Be the Solution Statement*."

(A) Educational and Career Goals (REQUIRED) Your essay should include: **1)** Your academic experiences to date as they pertain to the social and behavioral sciences, **2)** your future plans for graduate training, **3)** your specific field(s) and research topics or questions of interest, **4)** your career goals, and **5)** how you believe the UMD BSOS SRI might help you reach your educational and career goals.

(B) Be the Solution Statement (Strongly Encouraged) - Our BSOS motto is that we want to "*Be the Solution* to the world's great challenges." In this supplemental essay, we give you an opportunity to express how your research, and how your career, will address one or more of the well-documented challenges that social and behavioral scientists are working to address. We strongly encourage you to also address one or more of the following in your personal statement: **1)** how you plan to contribute to research that benefits or addresses diverse communities, underserved communities, or communities that have been historically distressed or disadvantaged; **2)** how you plan to contribute to research that addresses disparities that impact

diverse, distressed or disadvantaged, or underserved communities (e.g., mental health, health, educational, economic, etc.); **3)** how you plan to contribute to research that addresses economic, social, legal, or environmental justice; **4)** how you plan to broaden the participation of researchers from various communities by your presence or representation through your recruitment, teaching, and training; **5)** how you plan to promote greater participation of individuals and groups, across a broader spectrum, in research, education, clinical, public service settings, or policy settings.

Additional Guidance

- We encourage you to have your supplemental personal statement and your résumé/CV ready to upload at the time you complete the supplemental BSOS SRI questions.
- Important tip - Students who explain how their specific areas of interest relate to the research of specific BSOS faculty tend to stand out more during our review of applications. You must consult our BSOS department websites for details on faculty research interests.
- Your statement should be a maximum of two single-spaced, letter-sized pages, with 1" margins and be 1,200 words or less. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman, Arial, or other easy-to-read font.
- Please separate each paragraph of your supplement statement with a full blank line to prevent your paragraphs from merging once you upload your supplemental statement.
- Please upload your statement in a word document or PDF file format.

For More Information

If you have any questions about the BSOS SRI at the University of Maryland, please contact the SRI Program Manager, Brittney Robinson, at brobins7@umd.edu.