



# SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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## **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 UMD BSOS Summer Research Initiative (BSOS SRI). The required personal statement gives you an opportunity to provide a more detailed and integrated explanation of your training and career goals beyond the brief statements provided through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) research and personal statements. Our BSOS SRI requirement for an expanded statement helps us better understand how your training and career goals align with the specific mission of our program here at Maryland.

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). For this integrated, supplemental BSOS SRI personal statement, some applicants have found it useful to expand on some of the points they made in their shorter, 250-word "research statement" and 250-word "personal statement" used for their BTAA SROP application. Please take advantage of this opportunity to expand upon your shorter statements if you believe doing so will help explain your training and career goals. However, there are aspects of our BSOS SRI personal statement instructions that are unique. Therefore, you should also use the supplemental personal statement as an opportunity to discuss aspects of your career and training plans that you did not cover in the shorter BTAA SROP personal statements.

### **Supplemental Personal Statement Instructions**

Please provide a single, integrated personal/academic statement that explains how your educational interests, experiences, and/or goals relate to diversity and inclusion as described below.

**Educational and Career Goals (REQUIRED)** 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, policy, and public service settings. Please describe your academic experiences to date as they pertain to the social and behavioral sciences, your plans for graduate training, the specific field(s) of interest and research questions or areas you will pursue in graduate school, your ultimate career goals as a social and behavioral scientist, and how you believe the UMD

BSOS SRI might help you reach your educational and career goals.

**Diversity and Inclusion (REQUIRED)** Please integrate into the discussion of your educational and career goals how you plan to contribute to increasing the diversity and inclusion of scholars working in the social and behavioral sciences through your research, service, mentoring, or teaching. Please also address any of the following if they pertain to your interests, experiences, and aspirations: 1) promoting greater diversity and inclusion in educational or research settings; 2) research that benefits or addresses diverse or underserved communities; 3) research that benefits or addresses communities that have been historically distressed or disadvantaged; 4) social justice; or 5) research that addresses disparities that impact diverse or underserved communities (e.g., health, educational, economic, etc.).

### **Additional Guidance**

- **You must have your supplemental personal statement and your résumé/CV ready to upload at the time you complete the supplemental BSOS SRI questions.** The supplemental application portal does not allow applicants to save their work and return to complete it at a later date or time.
- 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 or Arial font.
- Please separate each paragraph of your statement with a full blank line to prevent your paragraphs from merging once you submit your supplemental material
- Please prepare your statement in a PDF file format (our system only uploads PDF files).
- For this integrated, supplemental BSOS SRI personal statement, some applicants have found it useful to expand on some of the points they made in their shorter, 250-word “research statement” and 250-word “personal statement” used for their BTAA SROP application. Please take advantage of this opportunity to expand upon your shorter statements if you believe doing so will help explain your training and career goals. However, there are aspects of our BSOS SRI personal statement instructions that are unique. Therefore, you should also use the supplemental personal statement as an opportunity to discuss aspects of your career and training plans that you did not cover in the shorter BTAA SROP personal statements.
- Students who explain how their specific areas of interest relate to the research of specific BSOS faculty tend to stand out in our application review process (see our [department websites](#) for details on faculty research).

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions about the BSOS SRI at the University of Maryland, please contact the SRI Director, Dr. Kim Nickerson, at [knick@umd.edu](mailto:knick@umd.edu).