Graduate Student Mentors

We are seeking graduate students who are interested in working with the Laidlaw Scholar Program during Summer Session A (May 22-June 30). The description of the program is below. Graduate student mentors are expected to meet (in person) weekly over the course of Summer Session A with their advisees in small group settings and individually; they will serve as a resource for research-related questions and challenges that students may encounter. They are also expected to speak to their assigned group of advisees about research methodologies in their (and related) disciplines, and to work with students to strengthen their research skills in disciplinarily specific ways. Graduate students are expected to spend approximately 4 hours/week with their advisees and will receive a stipend of $600 in recognition of this work.

LAIDLAW SCHOLARS PROGRM:

The Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Scholarship Program (https://urf.columbia.edu/urf/research/laidlaw) offers first-year students in Columbia College the opportunity to pursue independent research projects and to develop leadership attributes and skills that will serve them well in any future endeavor. This program is designed to help students learn from one another as well as from leaders in the academic and professional world, and to support students in their intellectual pursuits and their future growth.

Laidlaw Scholars will engage in two main pursuits over the course of 16 months: (1) independent research that will extend over the first summer in the program, with 6 weeks dedicated to the development of research skills and the exploration of a specific topic with guidance from a faculty member and (2) the development of knowledge, skills and attributes that will train them to be future leaders in their fields. To this end, the research of the first summer in the program is meant to lead Scholars to another project –either field research or community engagement—in their second summer in the program.

In their first summer as Laidlaw Scholars, students will participate in a combination of training in research fundamentals and conducting individual research (disciplinary or interdisciplinary). The program has a series of workshops that will take place during the summer that will allow the entire cohort to meet and to work with librarians and other academic advisers to develop an understanding of research approaches. Examples of workshops include: searching for and discovering primary and secondary resources, understanding "knowledge architecture," creating structures of information, understanding the ethical implications of information use, etc. Scholars also pursue a research project under the mentorship of a faculty member, while still receiving training on research skills and approaches that can be applied to the disciplinary area of the research projects. Graduate Student Mentors' have a central role in this summer as well, both in terms of serving as an advisor to students, but also in terms of challenging students to think about their research within a broader scholarly or applied context. The first week of the program graduate student mentors will meet their Laidlaw Scholars at a scheduled time/date (TBD); for the subsequent 5 weeks of the program they will work with their advisees to schedule meetings at a mutually agreeable time. (Some evening availability is preferable.)

To apply for the Graduate Student Mentor position, please send a CV and a cover letter **as a single PDF** to Ariella Lang at al223@columbia.edu by 4/15/2023. Please be sure that your cover letter includes reference to the following:

A description of your research interests and any experience you have in terms of working with or teaching undergraduates; a reflection on a topic that you might develop into a discussion session for students interested in research related (albeit sometimes very tangentially) to your own. Confirmation that your department allows you to take on such a position during the summer. Application materials will be read and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis.