

First Year Research Award:

Biological and Environmental Sciences

Faculty Supervisor:

Dr. Kunal Chatterjee

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Biology

Criteria: The Wittenberg University Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2025-2026 to an incoming student to work with Dr. Kunal Chatterjee. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in biology.

Expectations: FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research-related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

Research Activity: The First Year Research Award recipient will assist Dr. Kunal Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences, in his research on tRNA nuclear-cytoplasmic shuttling and quality control, as agreed upon in the FYRA Learning Contract. The FYRA Scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to be involved with and mentored in many aspects of Dr. Chatterjee's research, which will include conducting literature reviews, designing and performing experiments, data collection, conducting statistical analyses, and reporting results. The FYRA recipient will have an opportunity to present their work publicly at an undergraduate conference or colloquium at Wittenberg University, or a regional conference. Depending on progress and involvement in the project, FYRA recipient may be listed as a co-author in manuscripts to be submitted for publication in an academic journal. Because different biological experiments have their own disparate timelines of completion, recipients may have to devote 3-4 hours at a time during the week as well as may have to occasionally come in the evenings and over weekends for short periods to ensure continuity of experiments. For more information about Dr. Chatterjee's current research activities in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences as well as to obtain a list of his recent selected publications, please visit <https://www.wittenberg.edu/academics/biology/kunal-chatterjee-phd>.