

First Year Research Award: Physics
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jeremiah Williams

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Physics

Criteria: The Wittenberg University Department of Physics will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2025-2026 to an incoming student to work with Dr. Jeremiah Williams. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in physics.

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 recipients will assist Dr. Jeremiah Williams, Associate Professor of Physics, in the ongoing research activities of the Wittenberg University Plasma Laboratory (WUPL) as agreed upon in the FYRA Learning Contract. FYRA Scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the ongoing research efforts aimed at understanding the thermal and transport properties of dusty plasmas systems, including experimental measurements and data analysis, as well as diagnostic and hardware development. The specific project will be determined based on student background and the current research priorities of the laboratory. For more information about the current research activities, please visit the website for the Wittenberg University Plasma Laboratory at <https://jwilliams.wittenberguniversity.org>. Recipients should have good critical thinking skills and be detail oriented. Previous exposure to physics, involvement in the DIY or maker communities, work with computers and coding are beneficial but not necessary.

FYRA Scholarship recipients will receive priority consideration for paid summer research positions and research positions during the 2025-2026 academic year.