

1. This is the fun part. What would you like to know more about? Where would you like to find that information? Another state? Another country? Dream up your proposal for a USOAR grant.
2. Share your idea with a professor of your choosing. If the professor is willing to validate your idea, the wheels are in motion.
3. Obtain an application from USOAR website, ([www.niu.edu/usoar](http://www.niu.edu/usoar)), complete it and submit 10 copies of it to your college office with your professor's signature by December 2, 2009.
4. Students whose projects are selected are granted up to \$2,500 and can begin their projects as early as March 1 or anytime during the 12 months afterward. You are responsible for covering expenses beyond \$2,500.
5. Projects should come under the direct supervision and evaluation of members of the regular faculty. After the projects are completed, you will owe the university a report.



Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV) competition



"Overall, I found this experience to be the pinnacle of my education. I had an opportunity to immerse myself into another culture, even if for a short amount of time, and learn valuable lessons about those that are less privileged."



— **Aparna Rae,**  
Art education USOAR project in Mumbai, India



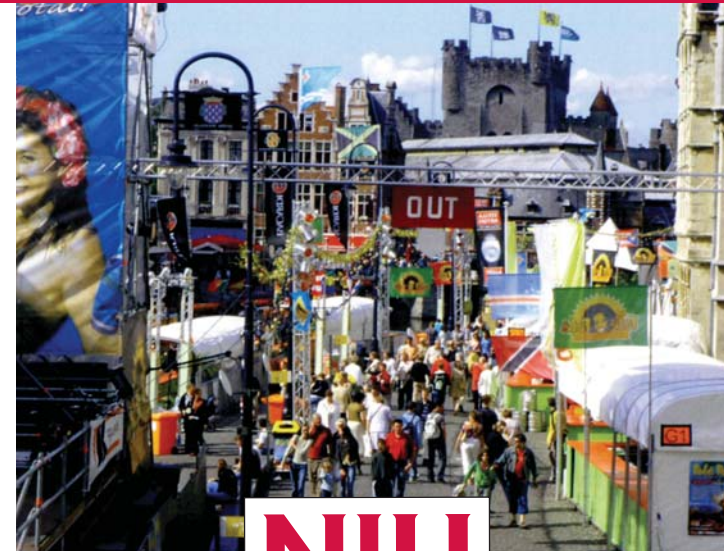
"As I hope to pursue a career in photojournalism or a related field, this trip has directly helped me to further my career goals."

— **Jessica King,**  
Photography and photojournalism USOAR project in Belgium

"It was an amazing experience, the best I've ever had. Seeing other countries' views on physical education was an eye-opening experience. It is something that not only I will benefit from but also my future students."



— **Brent Nelson,**  
Physical education USOAR project in Australia



**UNDERGRADUATE  
SPECIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES IN  
ARTISTRY AND  
RESEARCH PROGRAM**

<http://www.niu.edu/usoar/>

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# USOAR FAQs

## What is it?

USOAR is a program that uses university funds to fund student-generated research projects, whether the study is conducted on campus, somewhere else in the United States or internationally.



## How does it work?

Each of the six undergraduate degree-granting colleges has a process for receiving proposals from their students.

- Share your idea with a faculty member of your choosing; if your idea is validated, complete and submit 10 copies of an application with the faculty member's signature to your college office by December 2, 2009.
- The results will be announced in March 2010.

To view student proposals from previous years, visit the USOAR Web site:  
[www.niu.edu/usoar/](http://www.niu.edu/usoar/)



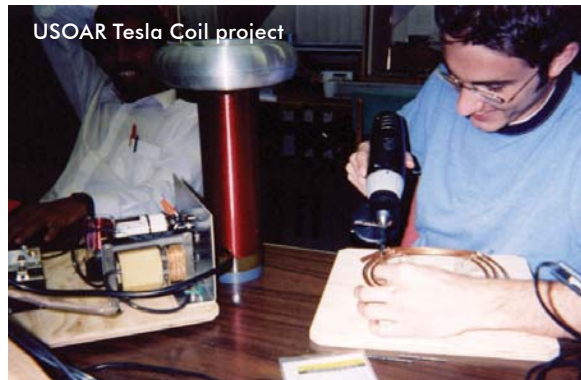
USOAR photojournalism project in Belgium



USOAR physical education group in Australia

## What have others done?

Some of your fellow NIU students researched the state of HIV and AIDS in Kenya. Some studied landscape archeology in Sicily. One visited botanical sites in England. Another observed the art of Thailand. Many of last year's USOAR recipients journeyed internationally.



USOAR Tesla Coil project

## Why should I apply?

Vice Provost Earl Seaver, who coordinates the USOAR program, says the grants provide a unique opportunity for undergraduate students at NIU: "This is the type of experience that represents a life change for many of the students. The enrichment of their academic careers goes far beyond that of most students. I would hope that all students would want to have this type of experience as an undergraduate."

## How much money is available?

The university allocates \$50,000 annually. Students whose projects are selected are granted up to \$2,500, which means at least 10 proposals are supported each year.

## If your proposal is approved

Students whose projects are selected can begin work March 1 or anytime during the 12 months afterward. You are responsible for expenses beyond \$2,500. Your work should come under the direct supervision and evaluation of members of the regular faculty. After your project is completed, you will owe a report.

## How can I learn more?

USOAR workshops will be held in HSC, Room 405 at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Thursday, Oct. 15, to give you all the information you need to put together a winning proposal.

Visit [www.niu.edu/usoar/](http://www.niu.edu/usoar/) or call (815) 753-0494.

**The deadline to submit 10 copies of an application for a USOAR grant is December 2, 2009.**

The USOAR application is available online at: [www.niu.edu/usoar/](http://www.niu.edu/usoar/)