

UConn IDEA Grant Recipients

Fall 2025 – Cohort 26



Congratulations to the six undergraduates who have been awarded UConn IDEA Grants to support summer 2026 projects!

Boe Burke '29, Art, SFA

Malicious Masculinity: Mary Shelley, Frankenstein, and the Gendered Creative

Mentors: Dr. Eleni Coundouriotis, English; Prof. John O'Donnell, Art & Art History

Rebecca Denhart '27, Molecular & Cell Biology and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; CLAS

Characterizing the Accumulation and Succession of Microorganisms on Bird Feeders

Mentor: Sarah Hird, Molecular & Cell Biology

Brianna Flores '29, Mechanical Engineering, ENG

The Enchanted Book: Engineering an Interactive Story Experience

Mentor: Stephany Santos, Vergnano Institute for Impact

Lucy Homer '27, Biomedical Engineering, ENG; Molecular & Cell Biology, CLAS

Improving Scientific Literacy and Bolstering the Field of Microbiology Through Children's Literature

Mentor: Dr. Patricia Rossi, Molecular & Cell Biology

Vedaamrutha (Veda) Reddy '27, Molecular & Cell Biology, CLAS

Functional Validation of AI-Predicted Non-Coding RHD Regulatory Variants Using CRISPR Editing

Mentors: Dr. Vanessa Scanlon, Regenerative Medicine, UCHC; Dr. Jun Liu, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Claire Zess '27, Animal Science, CAHNR

Breed-Specific Gene Expression and Susceptibility to Ringworm in Dairy Heifers

Mentor: Dr. Breno Fragomeni, Animal Science