

Mensch Prize in Astrobiology Nomination Form

The Mensch Prize in Astrobiology, hosted by the University of Arizona, is a student award designed to recognize and encourage undergraduate and graduate students who have explored through research and creative projects related to astrobiology. This prize aims to foster innovative, creative research and academic excellence among graduate and undergraduate students who demonstrate a strong interest in exploring the multifaceted aspects of astrobiology. It covers a wide range of topics, including star and planet formation, solar system exploration, exoplanets, the origin and evolution of life, habitability, consciousness, and the intersections of the philosophy and practical application of intelligence in humanities, law, policy, education, and diversity initiatives in space exploration.

The selection criteria are:

- One UArizona graduate student and one undergraduate student in any major or academic path.
- The academic merit and originality of the student's research or project
- The project's relevance to the field of astrobiology,
- The potential impact it could have on advancing our understanding and discussion of life in the universe.

The prize seeks to honor students who demonstrate creativity, interdisciplinary thinking, and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of our knowledge in astrobiology.

Bill Mensch is renowned for his contributions to microprocessor development. His interest in the intersection of nature's use of embedded intelligence, mankind's artificial intelligence technology, and consciousness for sensing, processing, communicating, and actuating (SPCA) have led him to explore the philosophy and practical application of The Theory of Embedded Intelligence. To read more, see: <https://themenschfoundation.org/theory-of-embedded-intelligence>.

Bill and Dianne Mensch have generously established an endowment to fund the yearly Mensch Prize in Astrobiology. This endowment reflects their commitment to advancing the field of astrobiology and supporting the academic endeavors of promising students at The University of Arizona.

Award Information

-Number of Prizes: 2 (one undergraduate & one graduate) Prize Amount: \$1,000 each

-Eligibility: Open to all UArizona graduate and undergraduate students

Focus: Thesis, research, or creative projects that connect to related to Astrobiology. The prize seeks to honor students who demonstrate creativity, interdisciplinary thinking, and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of our knowledge in astrobiology.

Application Process

Applications are to be submitted via this form.

All nominations must be received by February 28, 2024, by 10 PM.

* This form will record your name, please fill your name.

Faculty Member Information

1. Full Name

2. Department

3. Contact Information (Email, Phone Number)

Student Nominee Information

4. Full Name

5. Major/Minor

6. Level of Study

Undergraduate

Graduate

Nomination Details

7. Title of Thesis/Project

8. Brief Description (Abstract) - 200 words or less

9. Relevance to Embedded Intelligence in Astrobiology

- Star & Planet Formation
- Solar System Exploration
- Exoplanets
- Origin of Life
- Evolution
- Habitability & Biosignatuers
- Consciousness
- Applied Humanities, Law, and Policy
- STEM Education
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Space Exploration and Astrobiology

Expected Outcomes and Contributions to the Field

10. Timeline for Completion

11. Personal Statement (by Faculty Member):

- Reason for nominating this student
- Student's potential and suitability for the prize
- Supporting Materials (Optional): Attach any relevant publications, presentations, etc.

12. If you have supporting materials for the above personal statement, please upload here. [File limit 1]

File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 100MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

13. Faculty Declaration: I declare that the information provided is accurate and the student nominated is in good academic standing. Please type full name below.

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