RESEARCH
CONNECTING EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

Student Instructions

BEFORE submitting your proposal
☐ Connecting Experience Statement: Write and attach a 1-page, double-spaced statement describing your proposed research. Clearly articulate how your proposed research relates to your BDP topic and strand (if applicable), as well as why you chose your Faculty Mentor.

☐ Student and Research Project Information: Complete the student and research project information on page 2.

☐ Faculty Mentor and Student Requirements Form: With your Faculty Mentor:
   1. First review your 1-page statement, the student requirements and expectations on page 3, and the Faculty Handout on page 4, and
   2. Then complete the grading requirements and communication expectations and sign the Faculty Mentor & Student Requirements Form on page 3.

☐ OPTIONAL—Scholarship Application: If you would like to apply for BDP scholarship funding to support your Connecting Experience, submit a BDP scholarship application (available on the BDP website) along with your proposal.

☐ IF APPLICABLE—Course Syllabus: If you are registering yourself for credit in a departmental (non BDP) course for your Connecting Experience and following the grading requirements for the departmental course, attach the syllabus to your proposal.

☐ IF APPLICABLE—Study Abroad Paperwork: If your Connecting Experience is abroad, you must comply with the regulations outlined by the Study Abroad Office. For more information: (512) 471-1211 or world.utexas.edu/abroad.

☐ IF APPLICABLE—Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval: If your project uses human subjects or uses data collected from or about people, you may require IRB approval before beginning your research. Contact the Office of Research Support at (512) 471-8871 or visit their website utexas.edu/research/rsc/humansubjects.

AFTER submitting your proposal
☐ Your BDP advisor will contact you by email to let you know whether your proposal has been approved, denied, or is in need of revisions. Please be sure to look out for emails from your advisor on this topic!

☐ If you are requesting to be enrolled in BDP credit, please remember that this will carry three hours of credit. If this will put you over max hours, you will need to contact your major advisor directly to seek permission to go over max hours.
Student Information

Student Name: ___________________________________________________________  EID: ______________________________ 

Email: ____________________________________________________________________

BDP: ___________________________________________________ Strand (if applicable): ______________________________ 

This research is in (semester/year): __________________________ Location (city/state/country): ______________________________ 

Title of Research Project: __________________________________________________

Type of credit:

☐ Please register me for BDP 320K/320L: Connecting Research Experience

☐ I will register myself for credit in: (specify Department & Course Number)* ______________________________ 

*Know the expectations for course credit. You are responsible for fulfilling any departmental requirements.

Credit Semester: ☐ Fall  ☐ Spring  ☐ Summer  Year: ______________________________ 

Faculty Mentor: ___________________________________________________ Department: ______________________________ 

Faculty Mentor must have a current faculty appointment.

Email: ___________________________________________________ EID: ______________________________ 

**STUDENTS FILL THIS SECTION OUT**

**Student Requirements and Expectations:** In order to receive credit toward your BDP certificate for your Connecting Experience, students must complete the following requirements. Check each box, and initial where indicated.

- [ ] Complete two mandatory Connecting Experience Check-Ins and a Connecting Experience Writing Workshop. (Details will be sent via email by the BDP Office.)
- [ ] Complete Reflection Essay and submit to the BDP Office by last class day.

During a BDP Connecting Experience, students must meet the expectations stated below.

- [ ] Agree on a plan for the semester with your Faculty Mentor BEFORE the research begins.

**STUDENT AND FACULTY MENTOR FILL THIS SECTION OUT**

**Grading Requirements:** All Connecting Experiences may be graded using the plus/minus grading system. The grading requirements and relevant deadlines are decided at the discretion of the Faculty Mentor and student. The following options are only suggestions. For additional information, see the Faculty Handout on page 4.

- [ ] Literature Review ______ %
- [ ] 3–5 page Reflection Essay ______ %
- [ ] Poster for BDP Poster Session in April ______ %
- [ ] Research Paper ______ pages ______ %
- [ ] Research Assistant responsibilities (please specify below) ______ %

**Faculty/Student Communication:**

- Frequency of Contact: [ ] Weekly  [ ] Biweekly  [ ] Other: ___________

**Type of Contact:**

- [ ] In-person Meetings  [ ] Email
- [ ] Other: ___________

**Student and Faculty Mentor Signatures:** We have read, discussed, and agreed to the terms outlined in the Student Requirements and Expectations, Grading Requirements, and Faculty Mentor Handout.

**Faculty Mentor signature:** ________________________________  **Date:** ________________

**Student signature:** ________________________________  **Date:** ________________
Thank you for mentoring a BDP student! Our undergraduate students gain an invaluable introduction to the work of their chosen field through research. We appreciate the work you do with these students, who may be experiencing the responsibilities of a research project for the first time. Our office is available to address any questions or concerns you may have throughout the semester. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

BDP Main Line: (512) 232-7564  Larissa Noake, Senior Program Coordinator: larissa.noake@austin.utexas.edu

For additional information and resources, please visit our Faculty Mentor Handbook on the BDP website at: utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/faculty/mentoring

**FACULTY MENTOR GUIDELINES**

- Meet with student periodically throughout the semester or arrange regular email contact.
- Encourage student to make connections among the research experience, the student’s BDP topic, and methodologies, controversies, and trends in the student’s discipline.
- Help student consider new directions and possible career paths.
- Assign final grade or credit. This responsibility may vary depending on the course number and departmental requirements.

**SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENT EXPLANATIONS**

**IMPORTANT:** All academic requirements are at the discretion of the faculty mentor. The following assignments are only suggestions.

- **Research paper.** Be sure to specify a page length on the Connecting Experience Contract: RESEARCH form. Consider setting deadlines for each section of the paper early on in the semester. The average page length for research experiences in which the research paper is the primary assignment is 15–25 pages.

- **Research Assistant Responsibilities.** Although there is not an hours requirement for Connecting Research Experiences, the BDP Office suggests that students serving as lab assistant should contribute an average of 10-12 hours per week to their study. This work can include literary research, interacting with study participants, data analysis, attendance at lab meetings, and other assignments deemed appropriate by the faculty.

- **Reflection Essay.** The BDP office requires every student to write a 3-5 pg. Reflection Essay at the conclusion of the Connecting Experience. The Reflection Essay is due on the last class day of the semester. The student will be responsible for submitting a copy to the BDP office and the Faculty Mentor. The Reflection Essay prompt can be found on our website under “Quick Links and Forms.”

- **Poster.** You might ask the student to design a poster about his or her research experience, which may be presented at the annual BDP Poster Session in April. The Office of Undergraduate Research offers workshops on designing posters, and you could suggest that your student attend a workshop. For more information about the workshops or the BDP Poster Session, please contact Larissa Noake at larissa.noake@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 232-7586.