

University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Research Excellence Initiative (REI)
- & -
General Research Fund (GRF)

FY2026-2027
GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION

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Timeline and Submission Information Overview

For the Research Excellence Initiative (REI) & General Research Fund (GRF)

Application call:	December 1, 2025
Application due date:	February 2, 2026 (or as specified by REI rolling funds)
Review panel meetings:	February – March 2026
Award notification date:	By April 10, 2026
Award start date:	July 1, 2026
Award end date:	June 30, 2027
	*Note: All funds must be spent by this date

*****NOTE on deadlines:** *The above dates are **firm deadlines** and we cannot accept late applications (unless a given category has an open deadline). You will receive notification when your application has been received.*

An electronic version of the completed application (preferably as one PDF file, but we also accept multiple PDFs) is due by 5 pm on **February 2, 2026** (or as otherwise noted within specific REI/GRF fund descriptions) to the College Dean's Office at college_rei@ku.edu for Research Excellence Initiative applications, and clasgrf@ku.edu for General Research Fund applications.

Please use the following format example for the email subject line and file(s) name:

REI2026_lastname,firstinitial_fundtype

GRF2026_lastname,firstinitial

Example: REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.pdf *(for a single pdf)*

GRF2026_Doe,J.pdf *(for a single pdf)*

— or —

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.Application.pdf *(for multiple PDF files; label accordingly)*

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.Budget.pdf

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.CV.pdf

GRF2026_Doe,J.Application.pdf *(for multiple PDF files; label accordingly)*

GRF2026_Doe,J.Budget.pdf

GRF2026_Doe,J.CV.pdf

Applying to Multiple Funds

You may apply as Principal Investigator (PI) for both the General Research Fund (GRF) and Research Excellence Initiative (REI) (and multiple REI funds), but each must have its own application. **If applying to multiple REI funds, rank your preference for the order of funds in which you would like to receive consideration**, and we will do our best to accommodate this ranking in our final decision.

Year End Processing

Over expenditures

Departments or individual principal investigators are responsible for any substantial over expenditures in a GRF/REI account.

Awardee Obligations

All publications, presentations or performances supported in whole or in part by this allocation should bear the following acknowledgement:

GRF:

“This investigation was supported by the University of Kansas General Research Fund allocation.”

REI:

“This investigation was supported by the University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Research Excellence Initiative.”

If works of art or other products of activity supported by this allocation are to be sold or leased or otherwise yield income, you are expected to consult with the Executive Director of the KU Center for Technology and Commercialization (4-6265). Intellectual property developed as a result of the General Research Fund is subject to the intellectual property policy of both the University of Kansas and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR). These policies can be found at:

[Article - Intellectual Property Polic...](#)

https://www.kansasregents.org/about/policies-by-laws-missions/board_policy_manual_2

Property

Title to all materials, equipment, supplies, microfilm, computer files, books, tapes, documents, etc. obtained with GRF and REI funds will rest in the University. When such materials are no longer needed for the project they should be released to either the department or to the University Library for use by other faculty members and students.

KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Research Excellence Initiative (REI)

FY2026-2027

GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION



THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE FOR THE COLLEGE

FY: 2026-2027

The Research Excellence Initiative (REI) in the College is beginning its sixth year, now under the leadership of Dean Arash Mafi. It is designed to support the research and creative works of faculty, staff and students across the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Notably, the REI is built on private funds, raised by the Dean, the Associate Deans, the KU Endowment, and the College Alumni Advisory Board. Therefore, precious, limited resources from the College budget were not used for this initiative. We greatly appreciate the support from private donors and stakeholders who have made this initiative possible and invested in the future of the College.

This fund will be administered in the Spring semester, simultaneous to the GRF application. In an effort to streamline staff time and resources, we have worked with the requisite faculty governance boards to improve transparency and fairness in reforming the GRF. Both funds will have similar mechanisms for adjudicating the outcomes through faculty evaluation panels.

In the first two years of competitive funding, faculty and staff recipients of the REI more than tripled the value of the original investment through external funding, and have had tremendous impacts on training our next generation of leaders through participation in research. We look forward to what can be accomplished as a community of artists, scholars and scientists with these new investments in our work for the FY2026-2027 round of the Research Excellence Initiative.

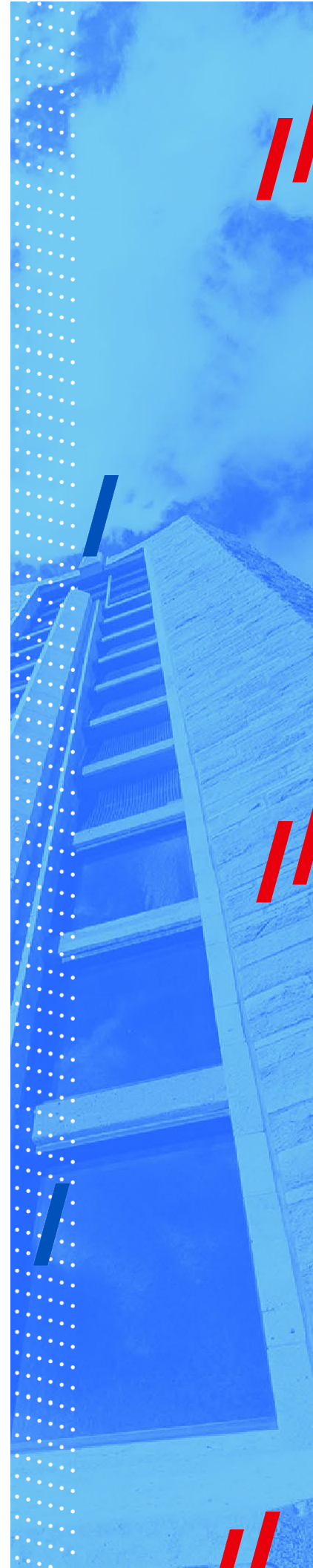
The REI also fits well within the strategic priority of the College to increase our productivity in research and to elevate our national/international stature in these endeavors. The REI will also support one of our other strategic priorities focused on spearheading the involvement of students in research and creative works conducted across the full range of the arts, liberal arts, and sciences. We believe the latter is crucial to prepare the next generation of scholars during their time at KU for their future careers.

Towards this end, the REI provides competitive internal funding to support the research and creative works of our faculty, research staff, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate/undergraduate students. Proposals will be evaluated on the articulation of research objectives and must also emphasize how this work will impact student engagement, learning, and networking. In cases where there is active participation of undergraduate students in research with the need for additional resources, we will provide supplemental funding to support the important contributions of faculty mentoring.

We are very excited to offer this initiative. We also appreciate the great benefits that our students receive when they work directly with faculty and staff in developing core liberal arts and sciences skills as well as gaining career readiness skills including critical thinking, communication skills, and project management expertise.

We look forward to watching how these new funds transform the research enterprise in the College as we work together to advance our future scholars and leaders.

Jie Zhang
Associate Dean



The Research Excellence Initiative (REI)

Fiscal Year for Funding: 2026-2027

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I. OVERVIEW: RESEARCH EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

Summary Information on Available Funds for FY2026-2027

General Funds						Application Materials				
Funding Categories (with abbreviations)		Who can apply as Principal Investigator?	Funding Range	Deadline	Abbreviated Description (see individual fund descriptions for more details)	Application Part I	Application Part II	Curriculum Vita/Resume	Budget & Budget Justification	Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
A. Collaborative Research Fund	CRF	Faculty and Research Staff	\$15k	02/02/2026	Supports transdisciplinary teams to develop ideas, conduct research, and seed large-scale, collaborative projects. The outcomes must include an application for major external funding (e.g., grant, fellowship)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B. Time-Sensitive and Urgency Fund	TSU	Faculty and Research Staff	\$500 - 1K	Open deadline	Supports researchers who have a critical need for rapid and targeted funds to sustain a research activity or body of work	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C. Fill-In the Gap Fund	FIG	Faculty and Research Staff	\$500 - 1K	Open deadline	Supports researchers who have already acquired a grant or fellowship but are in need of additional resources not covered by the original funding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
D. Conference/Meeting/Exhibit Sponsorship Fund	CME	Faculty and Research Staff	\$500-1K	Open deadline	To support conferences, meetings or exhibits that are hosted on the KU Campus or are chaired/co-sponsored by College faculty/staff outside of KU	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Faculty Directed Support for Undergraduates						Application Materials				
Funding Categories (with abbreviations)		Who can apply as Principal Investigator?	Funding Range	Deadline	Abbreviated Description (see individual fund descriptions for more details)	Application Part I	Application Part II	Curriculum Vita/Resume	Budget & Budget Justification	Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
E. Jim Mielke Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science Mentorship Award	JMF	Faculty and Research Staff (submit on student's behalf)	\$800/+ \$200 faculty honorarium	02/02/2026	To provide summer internship or research opportunities for undergraduate students in the Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences. Students must have graduated from a Lawrence High School	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Staff and Graduate Student Funds						Application Materials				
Funding Categories (with abbreviations)		Who can apply as Principal Investigator?	Funding Range	Deadline	Abbreviated Description (see individual fund descriptions for more details)	Application Part I	Application Part II	Curriculum Vita/Resume	Budget & Budget Justification	Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
F. Graduate Student Grant-Writing Incentive Award	GWIGS	Ph.D. and Masters Students	\$1K	02/02/2026	Provides incentives for applying to external funding for research. Graduate student or postdoctoral researcher must be applying for a grant or fellowship totaling at least \$5,000 and the proposed research activities must be in <u>direct</u> support of the student or post doc's research	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
G. Postdoctoral Grant- Writing Incentive Award	GWIPD	Postdoctoral Researchers	\$1K	02/02/2026		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
H. Social Justice Research Award	SJA	Ph.D. and Master's Students	\$2K	02/02/2026	To support the thesis or dissertation research of a graduate student whose interests, achievements, and talents are in the peace and justice field	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
I. Staff Grant-Writing Incentive Fund	SWI	Research Staff	\$1K	02/02/2026	Provides incentives for applying for external funding for research. The staff member must be applying for a grant or fellowship totaling at least \$5,000 and the proposed research activities must be in direct support of the staff member's research	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Special Purpose Funds						Application Materials				
Funding Categories (with abbreviations)		Who can apply as Principal Investigator?	Funding Range	Deadline	Abbreviated Description (see individual fund descriptions for more details)	Application Part I	Application Part II	Curriculum Vita/Resume	Budget & Budget Justification	Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
J. Child Language Doctoral Program Fund	CLD	Faculty, graduate students, and visitors in the Child Language Doctoral Program	\$1-4.5K	02/02/2026	Use of these funds is restricted to faculty and affiliates in the Child Language Doctoral Program (CLDP). Funds can be used for 1) faculty research projects, 2) scholarship and/or research support for graduate students, and 3) support for visiting scholars (Sponsored by Mabel L. Rice)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
K. Engaged Scholarship Award	ESA	Faculty and Research Staff	\$3K	02/02/2026	Provides support to conduct engaged scholarship at local through international levels (i.e., academic scholarship or research that has been taken off-campus to enhance society and the public good)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

***Note:** Funding supports research disciplines across the entire College ranging from the arts, humanities, international studies, instructional research, and the sciences.

Faculty include all tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure track faculty (e.g., clinical, research, teaching tracks). Research staff include those engaged in basic and applied research, the production of creative works, and research in learning methods and environments, etc.

While collaborators are required for Collaborative Research Funds (CRF), they may also be listed in other award categories when relevant to the project. However, funding from the Research Excellence Initiative may not support salary for individuals with a primary appointment outside of the College (although funds from other sources can be used to leverage these costs and can be listed in the budget as matching support). Those receiving direct funding from the Research Excellence Initiative must have a ≥ 0.25 appointment in the College. Graduate and undergraduate students receiving funding must also be primarily appointed in the college.

I. Timeline and Submission Information

Application call:	December 1, 2025
Application due date:	February 2, 2026 (or as specified by rolling fund)
Review panel meetings:	February – March 2026
Award notification date:	By April 10, 2026
Award start date:	July 1, 2026 or upon award for REI rolling awards
Award end date:	June 30, 2027 *Note: All funds must be spent by this date

*****NOTE on deadlines:** *The above dates are **firm deadlines** and we cannot accept late applications (unless a given category has an open deadline). You will receive notification when your application has been received. Please consult your chair before applying, as she/he/they may have internal deadlines for proposal submissions that may differ from those listed above. Progress reports for open deadlines will be announced as they become relevant.*

An electronic version of the completed application (preferably as one PDF file, but we also accept multiple PDFs) is due to the College Dean's Office at the following email address college_rei@ku.edu by 5 pm on **February 2, 2026** (or as otherwise noted within specific fund descriptions). Contact CLAS Office Manager, Melinda Robinson, at lyndjo@ku.edu for questions.

Please use the following format for the email subject line and file(s) name:

REI2026_lastname,firstinitial_fundtype

Example: REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.pdf (*for a single pdf*)

— or —

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.Application.pdf (*for multiple PDF files; label accordingly*)

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.Budget.pdf

REI2026_Doe,J_FIG.CV.pdf

*Please be sure that your completed application includes all necessary materials described in the individual fund descriptions under *Application Requirements*, including any *Special Requirements*.

II. Description of Funds

Below we outline a variety of funding categories that support the full range of disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences including the arts, humanities, and sciences. The Research Excellence Initiative (REI) includes two broad categories of funds to support these efforts as listed below:

General Funds

Special Purpose Funds

Together, these two types of funds provide a unique portfolio of opportunities for enhancing the research activities of the College in productive and innovative ways. One of the key aspects of the REI is an emphasis on the inclusion of undergraduate and graduate students in the process of conducting research. We consider this as an integral part of this initiative because it allows for the training of the next generation of leaders as they work side-by-side with our faculty and staff in the College.

General Funds

Staff and Graduate Student Funds

These funds are made possible by our generous donors who have contributed general research funds that are designed to support research activities across the full range of the arts, liberal arts, and sciences in the College. Funding categories include faculty, staff, and students in the College and potential collaborators across campus and at national/international levels. Within the outlined categories, the individuals applying have a high degree of latitude for the direction and approaches used in the proposed research activities, and this is often referred to as investigator-initiated projects. Through this initiative, funds can be requested for (a) support for transdisciplinary and discipline-specific research, (b) time-sensitive and urgent funding for targeted research, (c) honoraria for expert reviewers to increase the success of proposals and manuscripts in the review process, (d) incentive funds for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and research staff to write external funding applications, and (e) conference sponsorship, art exhibition and travel funds. We expect that as this initiative shows its full value, it will grow and expand into other important funding streams to support research and the student experience in the College.

Special Purpose Funds

Faculty Directed Support for Undergraduates

These funds are made possible by contributions from donors who have selected targeted areas that they would like to support, and therefore these funds are variable in nature and are subject to change from year-to-year (both in type and award amounts). These awards generally involve specific goals and outcomes and therefore may differ from the typical latitude provided to investigators in funding categories in the college wide funds. These Special Purpose Funds also allow us to support research endeavors that are of broad interest to both our donors and faculty/staff alike.

A. Collaborative Research Fund (CRF)

Goal: To promote high impact research that is transdisciplinary in nature and that enables synergies across the College and beyond

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: These funds will support transdisciplinary teams to develop ideas, conduct research, and seed large-scale projects. The outcomes of these awards **must** include one or more significant research or creative product(s). These include an application for **external** research funding (KU grants and travel awards are not considered external) for a research group or institutional effort (e.g., center grant, institutional training grant), a highly innovative teaching approach, a significant scholarly product (e.g., a major book), the development of a long-term research instrument or large-scale data set that supports interdisciplinary efforts, and/or implementation of a transformative program at KU or in the community. Applications must state expected outcomes and products from this funding.

Student Engagement: Student participation is required and must be specifically described in the Project Description. This may include undergraduate and/or graduate student participation in the process of conducting research, contributing to a creative work, journal article, book, and/or participation in the development of a teaching strategy or other areas as relevant to the proposed activities. Incorporation of undergraduate students will increase chances of success.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: 1-2

Award Range: \$15,000

Eligibility Requirements: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in Overview, Section I). Required Co-Investigators may include faculty and/or research staff from inside or outside of the College. This fund also encourages co-investigators/collaborators from outside of KU when applicable.

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I
- Application Form Part II
- Curriculum Vitae of the PI and major collaborators (maximum 4 pages each)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** Proposals must include at least two faculty members (tenured/tenure-track) and at least two different KU departments, with the lead PI being in the College (list all involved in the Application Form). Collaborators from other schools at KU will be viewed positively. If matching funds are acquired from other sources in advance (e.g., from other schools or agencies), please indicate that in the project description. In rare cases, we will consider collaborations between faculty members in the same department if a very strong case can be made for the interdisciplinary benefit of this interaction. In addition to the minimum of two faculty members, additional co-investigators/collaborators may be included from outside of KU (national and international), especially when this serves to strengthen the quality of the research.

B. Time-Sensitive and Urgency Fund (TSU)

Goal: To support research and creative works that are opportune in nature or that require immediate funding in order to create or sustain a research activity or body of work

Application Due Date: Open deadline as funds remain available beginning 07/01/2026

Fund Description: Support will be granted based on documentation of a critical need for rapid and targeted funds. We anticipate that these requests will vary widely by discipline and by situation. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Investigators who narrowly missed having an external proposal funded that require additional data for resubmission in the next round;
- b. Reprint or permission fees associated with publication costs in cases where the One University Open Access Author Fund (<https://lib.ku.edu/open-access-authors-fund>) was unavailable or not an option or grant funds were unavailable;
- c. Costs associated with exhibition and/or performance of a creative work(s);
- d. Proofreading and/or indexing of a book manuscript;
- e. Funding for an unexpected shortfall in an existing grant;
- f. Funding a time-sensitive research opportunity; or
- g. Maintaining the employment of an excellent staff researcher to allow more time to gain funding to maintain their employment

Student Engagement: Applicants must articulate how this funding will have a positive impact on students. We envision many possible scenarios for student participation and training due to the diverse nature of anticipated requests.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Award Range: \$500-\$1,000 depending on the project and its scope (these funding levels include student participation costs); a specific budget is required

Eligibility Requirements: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I). Possible Co-Investigators (if relevant) may include faculty and/or research staff from inside or outside of the College.

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I
- Application Form Part II
- Curriculum Vitae of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** The impact and urgency of the need for funds must be clearly articulated in the Project Description, along with an exact budget amount in the request.

C. Fill-In the Gap Fund (FIG)

Goal: To support researchers who have an externally funded grant that does not allow expenditures that are crucial to conduct the research and/or that will substantially enhance the research or creative works

Application Due Date: Open deadline as funds remain available beginning 07/01/2026

Fund Description: Support will be granted to researchers who have already acquired a grant or fellowship but are in need of additional resources not covered by the original funding. As an example, this may involve the need for a piece of equipment or supplies that are not covered directly by the original grant.

Student Engagement: Applicants must articulate how this funding will have a positive impact on students. We envision many possible scenarios for student involvement and training due to the diverse nature of anticipated requests.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Award Range: \$500-\$1,000 depending on the project and its scope (these funding levels include student participation costs); a specific budget is required

Eligibility Requirements: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I). Possible Co-Investigators (if relevant) may include faculty and/or research staff from inside or outside of the College.

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I
- Application Form Part II
- Curriculum Vitae or resume of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** In the Project Description, the applicant must document the need for the request and show clear evidence that it is unable to be funded through a current support mechanism.

D. Conference / Meeting / Exhibit Sponsorship Fund (CME)

Goal: To support conferences, meetings or exhibits that are hosted on/off the KU campus and that are chaired/featured by College faculty and/or research/instructional staff

Application Due Date: Open deadline as funds remain available beginning 07/01/2026

Fund Description: To support conferences, meetings or exhibits that are hosted on/off the KU campus and that are chaired/featured by College faculty and/or research/instructional staff. The application should make clear how the conference supported by these funds contributes to KU's national competitiveness or research standing, and explicitly indicate what specific outcomes might be expected or anticipated from the funding.

Student Engagement: The conference, meeting, or exhibit should include undergraduate and/or graduate students as presenters and/or participants and this should be articulated in the Project Summary. In addition, faculty/staff should consider the involvement of College and other KU students directly in the conference, meeting, or exhibit.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Maximum Amount per award: \$500 - \$1,000

Eligibility: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I). Possible Co-Investigators (if relevant) may include faculty and/or research staff from inside or outside of the College.

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** If funded, please be sure to reference the Research Excellence Initiative in the College at the University of Kansas as a sponsor for the meeting, conference or exhibit on promotional materials (please contact the Dean's Office if you need assistance). If applying for a conference grant in addition to the REI, please indicate this in the application (this will be viewed positively).

E. Jim Mielke Humanities, Social & Behavioral Science Mentorship Award (JMF)

Goal: To support undergraduate students in the Humanities and/or Social and Behavioral Sciences

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: This fund provides summer internship or research opportunities for undergraduate students in the Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences to gain experience with research to enhance mentoring of undergraduates, and to contribute to discovery. Preference shall be given to graduates of a Lawrence, KS public high school and students in humanist, social and behavioral science fields. A \$200 honorarium will be awarded to the mentor of the student receiving the award.

**Please note that this award is considered taxable income.*

Student Engagement: This fund serves to benefit undergraduate students by helping them gain experience with research to enhance mentoring of undergraduates, and to contribute to discovery.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: 1-2

Award Range: \$800 summer salary/fringe to the student; \$200 honorarium to advisor/mentor

Eligibility Requirements: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I) who submits the application on behalf of the student in the College (i.e., one that they are mentoring or will mentor in research). **If traveling, a statement must be made in the Application Form Part I for how the student's travel is directly relevant to the research of the supporting faculty member (for tax purposes).**

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum Vitae or resume of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects

Special Requirements:

- If awarded, student must provide appropriate documentation (conference acceptance, travel confirmation, submitted grant, etc.) before funds can be released.

F. Graduate Student Grant-Writing Incentive Fund (GWI-GS)

Goal: To support and reward graduate students who apply for external grants and fellowships to support their research endeavors

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: The graduate student must be applying for an external grant or fellowship totaling at least \$5,000 and the research activities must be in direct support of the student's research. The applicant must also be mentored by their faculty advisor while writing the grant/fellowship application and while conducting the research if subsequently funded.

**Please note that this award is considered taxable income.*

Student Engagement: This fund benefits graduate students by rewarding them for submission of external grant and fellowship applications that will directly support and benefit their research.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Maximum Amount per award: \$1,000 for research funds

Eligibility: Masters and doctoral students in the College (with faculty advisor support)

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the student (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects

Special Requirements:

- The graduate advisor(s) must designate by her/his/their signature on the application form that she/he/they will support the applicant in preparing the grant or fellowship and will advise on the research if the grant/fellowship is subsequently funded. The graduate student must provide the name, agency, due date, grant amount, and other details to identify the grant/fellowship to be submitted. The applicant should also forward a copy of the final grant proposal/fellowship application to the Dean's Office.
- If awarded, student must provide appropriate documentation (conference acceptance, travel confirmation, submitted grant, etc.) before funds can be released.

G. Postdoctoral Grant-Writing Incentive Fund (GWI-PD)

Goal: To support and reward postdocs who apply for external grants and fellowships to support their research endeavors

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: The postdoc must be applying for an external grant or fellowship totaling at least \$10,000 and the research activities must be in direct support of the postdoc's research. The applicant must also be mentored and supported by their faculty advisor while writing the grant/fellowship application and while conducting the research if subsequently funded.

**Please note that this award is considered taxable income.*

Student Engagement: This fund benefits postdocs by rewarding them for submission of external grant and fellowship applications that will directly support and benefit their research.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Maximum Amount per award: \$1,000 for research funds

Eligibility: Postdoctoral fellows in the College (with faculty advisor support)

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the graduate student (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** The graduate advisor(s) must designate by her/his/their signature on the application form that she/he/they will support the applicant in preparing the grant or fellowship and will advise on the research if the grant/fellowship is subsequently funded. The postdoc must provide the name, agency, due date, grant amount, and other details to identify the grant/fellowship to be submitted. The applicant should also forward a copy of the final grant proposal/fellowship application to the Dean's Office.

H. Social Justice Award (SJA)

Goal: To support the thesis or dissertation research of a graduate student in the College focused on peace and justice

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: To support the thesis or dissertation research of a graduate student in the College (or the School of Business) focused on the peace and justice. Examples of appropriate interests for this award are social scientific study of, or application of social scientific knowledge to: conflict resolution, social action, human problems in the work world, race and ethnic relations, and research on developing countries. Master's or PhD students working on these or similar research topics are encouraged to apply.

**Please note that this award is considered taxable income.*

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: 1

Maximum Amount per award: \$2,000 (provided for research in the summer)

Eligibility: Master's or Ph.D. students in the College (or the School of Business) who are engaged in thesis or dissertation research during the 2026-2027 academic year are eligible to apply. The student's enrollment during the term of the award must comply with University and departmental requirements. Both faculty and self-nominations are accepted, but materials must be compiled by the student (with the exception of the faculty nomination letter).

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the graduate student (maximum 4 pages)
- Nomination letter from a faculty member in the College (if applicable)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects

Special Requirements:

- If awarded, student must provide appropriate documentation (conference acceptance, travel confirmation, submitted grant, etc.) before funds can be released.

I. Staff Grant Writing Incentive Fund (SWI)

Goal: To support and reward research/instructional staff who apply for external grants and fellowships to support their research endeavors

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: The staff researcher must be applying for a grant or fellowship totaling at least \$5,000 and the proposed activities must be in direct support of the staff member's research, teaching, and/or outreach activities.

Specifics:

Approximate Number of Awards: To be determined

Maximum Amount per award: \$1,000 for research supplies and/or travel to present or conduct research

Eligibility: Research staff in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I) with approval from their supervisor(s)

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** The staff member must provide the name, agency, due date, grant amount, and other details to identify the grant/fellowship to be submitted. The applicant should also forward a copy of the final grant proposal/fellowship application to the Dean's Office.

J. Child Language Doctoral Program Fund (CLD)

Sponsored by Distinguished Professor Mabel L. Rice

Goal: To support faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars in the Child Language Doctoral Program (CLDP) or CLDP-affiliated faculty for research, student support, travel expenses, and support for visiting faculty

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: This fund is restricted to faculty and graduate students in the Child Language Doctoral Program (CLDP) and CLDP-affiliated faculty with appointments in other units. This fund also supports visiting scholars through applications from CLDP and CLDP-affiliated faculty who will host these visitors. Uses of the fund are limited to: 1) Research funding, 2) scholarship and/or research support for graduate students in CLDP or that are CLDP-affiliated, or 3) funding to support a visiting scholar in CLDP. Examples of proposal requests include: Travel for data collection, attendance at a workshop in methods/analysis, visits to a distant laboratory, and funding to provide discretionary time of the student or researcher for time to devote to data analysis and/or writing.

Student Engagement: See “Student Proposals” in *Special Requirements* below

Specifics:

Maximum Number of Awards: 1 in each category below

Approximate Amount Amounts: Faculty (\$4,500); Graduate students (\$4,500); Visiting Scholars (\$1,000) (amounts are subject to change based on funding availability)

Eligibility: Faculty (see Overview, Section I) and graduate students in the Child Language Doctoral Program (CLDP) and/or CLDP-affiliated faculty and students with appointments in other units.

Application Requirements:

- Application Form Part I
- Application Form Part II
- Curriculum Vitae or resume of PI (maximum 4 pages) and CV of visiting scholar when applicable
- Budget plus Budget Justification
- Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects
- **Special Requirements:** The project description should address one of the following:
 - Faculty Proposals** – Clearly describe the proposed project or travel, its significance, its alignment with the CLDP goals, and its impact on issues of importance to studies of child language and/or language impairments. (If students are involved, please provide a description of the impact on student learning)
 - Graduate Student Proposals** – Explain how the funds will be used and how the funds will enhance graduate student research, training, and/or networking. **A statement must be made in the Application Form Part I for how the student’s travel is directly relevant to the research of a faculty advisor or other supporting faculty member in CLDP or among its affiliates (for tax purposes).**
 - Visiting Scholar Fund:** Provide the name and affiliation of the proposed visiting scholar, the topic of a talk/discussion/research to be conducted, its significance, its impacts on student training, and its alignment to current topics in child language and/or language impairments in children.

K. Engaged Scholarship Award (ESA)

Goal: To support faculty members whose research is currently having an impact on the community. This fund is intended to support projects that began within the last two (2) years. Projects can be ongoing, but there should be at least one tangible outcome of the project at the time the application is submitted.

Application Due Date: 02/02/2026

Fund Description: This fund recognizes outstanding examples of engaged scholarship by faculty in the College. Engaged scholarship encompasses academic scholarship that has been taken off-campus and into communities, contributing to the public good. While student-centered pedagogical elements, such as service learning or volunteering in the community are critical elements of an engaged project, the driving force of this project should be innovative, faculty-led research. This award seeks to recognize College faculty members whose work exemplifies how academic research can have a positive impact on local communities.

Student Engagement: Applicants must articulate how this funding will have a positive impact on students. We envision many possible scenarios for student involvement and training due to the diverse nature of these proposals.

Specifics: Engaged Scholarship Award (ESA)

Approximate Number of Awards: 1

Award Range: \$3,000

Eligibility Requirements: The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member or research staff member in the College (see Notes in the Overview, Section I). Possible Co-Investigators (if relevant) may include faculty and/or research staff from inside or outside the College. Collaborators may share this award. This award is intended for projects that began within the last two (2) years at the time of applying. Projects may be on-going, but there should be at least one tangible outcome of the project by the time the application is submitted and this should be clearly described.

Criteria: Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- Level of community impact of the project
- Level of innovation in scholarship that the project demonstrates
- Promise that the project will continue to have a community impact into the future
- The research generated by this award will be taught in the KU classroom to undergraduates or graduates. It could also be used as a form of outreach in the local school system.

Application Requirements:

- a. Application Form Part I (Part II is not required for this fund)
- b. Curriculum Vitae or resume of the PI (maximum 4 pages)
- c. Budget plus Budget Justification
- d. Approvals for University Regulations for Research Projects

IV. Evaluation Procedures

The Research Excellence Initiative Review Committee will consist of faculty members who represent different divisions in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Humanities, School of the Arts, and Social & Behavioral Sciences). Members of the Review Committee will generally serve two-year terms and this will count as a substantial service to the College. The Associate Deans will serve as ad-hoc members of the committee. Chairpersons/unit directors are not eligible to serve on the Review Committee, nor are faculty who intend to apply for Research Excellence Initiative funding within the two-year period in which they are serving.

The College Dean's Office will send out a call for committee nominations to all faculty in the College and select members for the Review Committee from among the nominations as new members are needed. The Dean's Office will convene the first meeting and the members of the Review Committee will elect a chair at this first meeting.

The REI Review Committee will be charged with evaluating proposals according to the REI guidelines (described below) and will make award recommendations. The decisions of the Committee will be honored to the extent possible based on the availability of funds and representation of diversity among awardees and disciplines within the College. The review process is similar to the example set forth by the National Science Foundation where multiple reviewers evaluate each proposal and the committee works together to rank proposals. The committee also includes an additional oversight person who does not make judgements on the proposals but oversees the process to ensure fairness. Applicants who do not receive funding or who receive reduced funding can request feedback from the Associate Deans. We reserve the right to alter funding amounts and numbers of awards at our discretion based on the quality of the applications and availability of funds. All final decisions on funding will be made by the Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

V. Review Criteria

Please note that these funds are competitive, as we expect a large number of applicants. We will be unable to support all applications within a given year, and therefore we encourage multiple submissions in cases where an applicant is not funded in the first round.

When applicable, preference will be given to applications that (not in ranked order):

1. Propose a logical, novel, and well thought out plan for conducting the proposed research activities or creative works
2. Demonstrate previous efforts to obtain external funding over the last three years and/or a detailed plan for obtaining external funding within the next 12-18 months (or a publication(s) within that same time period) when applicable
3. Provide support and training for students by participation in the research activities of the project and/or through development of innovative instruction
4. Show a clear connection to the College's strategic plan
5. Propose efficient use of funds and/or smaller budgets as appropriate

It is also important to be sure that your completed application includes all necessary materials and information described in the individual descriptions under *Application Requirements*, including any *Special Requirements (information, required letters, etc.)*.

Detailed information in the timeline in the application can increase the chances for funding and should include targeted funding agencies and deadlines for applications, as well as possible publication outlets and submission timelines for expected products from this funding (when applicable). Furthermore, a record of applying for external funding on a consistent basis will be viewed positively in the application process (when applicable). These are general criteria and the evaluation of proposals will occur within specific funds and will be based on the critical criteria that is important and relevant for each individual fund.

The following information provides a guide to be used for evaluating critical components in the Project Summary and/or Project Description, although these criteria can vary greatly by fund type.

1. Project significance

- a. What is the importance of the project to the proposer's discipline or the interdisciplinary endeavor?
- b. Will the project lead to subsequent scholarly publications and/or grant related research activities?
- c. Will this enhance the success of the researcher by providing the opportunity to present research or to have work reviewed that may prompt success in the formal review process?

2. Research / Creative Plan

- a. Are the research objectives clearly stated? An application must be written and designed such that all members of the Review Committee (across disciplines) can read and understand it.
- b. Does the research plan reflect adequate knowledge of current and relevant literature?
- c. Does the research plan describe the research methods adequately?
- d. Does the research plan clearly address the project goals/objectives?
- e. Is there a high probability of successful completion of the proposed objectives within the timeline, budget, and availability of facilities and equipment? Is the project too ambitious to complete the work or under-ambitious as to not have potential for impact?

- f. Does the project enhance student participation in research in meaningful ways through training potential, career preparation, and networking? This is a key criterion in all funds, although some must be stated explicitly and others are inherent to the fund itself (see fund descriptions).

3. Qualifications/Scholarly Activities and Achievements/External Submission Activities of Applicant

- a. Is the applicant qualified to complete the proposed research?
- b. Is the applicant recognized as a contributor, expert, or upcoming leader in the field?
- c. Has the applicant shown evidence of scholarly productivity?
- d. Has past REI support produced viable creative/scholarly results?
- e. Has the applicant attempted to secure external funding for research projects?
- f. Is the student prepared for a conference scenario through preliminary data or the promise of preliminary data for presentation?

4. Additional Review Criteria

In addition to the major criteria listed above, other specific factors are given consideration in the review process:

- a. **Early Career Faculty:** Strong consideration will be given to applicants who are early in their professional careers or senior applicants who are developing a new line of research; preference will be given to applicants who have shown dedication to advancing research and teaching innovations while employed at KU.
- b. **Pilot Projects:** Proposals for pilot projects, which represent the first step(s) toward larger-scale investigations with the potential for external funding will be regarded favorably. Applicants who submit proposals for pilot projects should state the expected source of the outside funding and the efforts that will be made toward securing such funding in the application materials. Renewal of a previously funded GRF project will be considered, but will be given low priority.
- c. **Completion of Projects Funded Elsewhere:** If a project was funded elsewhere and required modest support for its completion or needs funds to match support already provided by the outside grant, it will be given high consideration, particularly if progress is already great.
- d. **Instructional Research:** Research in innovative and improved instructional techniques and efforts to incorporate undergraduate students in hands-on research and professional opportunities will be well received in the review process. However, we cannot support requests for routine revision of lecture notes, production of standard teaching materials, or normal preparation for new courses.

VI. Post-Award Follow-up

All funds for the FY2026-2027 application process must be spent in full by June 30, 2027. Remaining funds will be returned to the College.

KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
General Research Fund (GRF)

FY2026-2027

GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION



General Research Fund (GRF)
Fiscal Year for Funding: 2026-2027

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I. Overview

The General Research Fund was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1951 for the purpose of encouraging and supporting research at the University. The General Research Fund competition provides the opportunity for faculty from each school or college to submit proposals that focus on furthering their scholarly research.

College chairs will nominate faculty members to serve on a review committee to provide peer review of funding proposals (in the College, that takes place within 5 entities by discipline type) and to select awardees. Individual awards may be made to faculty investigators. Funds may also be used to increase support for graduate students or may be allocated in other ways to further research.

Surplus funds can result when an entity has an insufficient number of worthy applications. When this occurs, the Faculty Senate Research Committee (FSRC) is reluctant to set the precedent of allowing one GRF entity to shift excess funds to another. The FSRC wishes to review, on a case-by-case basis, requests that excess funds be used to fund worthy proposals submitted by faculty in a different entity. The FSRC urges entities to take all steps necessary to promote the GRF and thus help ensure that there are enough worthy proposals to utilize GRF allocations fully.

NOTE: GRF funds are allocated for the entire fiscal year starting July 1, 2026, and the proposal should be formulated accordingly. Proposals will be reviewed by the Review Committees, and announcement of allocations will be made by the beginning of April 2026. All awards are contingent upon action on the University's budget by the Kansas Legislature.

II. Eligibility

Eligible: All faculty with tenured or tenure-track appointments on the Lawrence Campus payroll are eligible to submit **one** GRF proposal as the principal investigator. Please note additional divisional requirements below:

New Faculty: New tenure-track faculty members, who have not yet received tenure from any division must apply to the *New Faculty Research Development Fund* before applying to this competition. More information can be found at: New Faculty Research Development Award | Office of Research (<https://research.ku.edu/new-faculty-research-development-award>)

A. Humanities

1. Faculty who hold the appropriate terminal degree and are within 10 years of their initial tenure-track appointment at KU or elsewhere are eligible to receive allocations every year.
2. Faculty who hold the appropriate terminal degree and are beyond 10 years of their initial tenure-track appointment at KU or elsewhere may not receive GRF allocations in consecutive years.
3. Applicants may receive GRF support for no more than one year for work leading to an article or book chapter. In evaluating applications for support for book-length projects, the Review Committee will take in account the applicant's progress on the proposed book.

B. Life Sciences

1. All faculty with tenure-track or tenured appointments in EEB and MB are eligible to submit proposals for a GRF each year.
2. Faculty with affiliate appointments in EEB and/or MB must receive permission from the Chair of the Department prior to submission.

C. Physical Sciences

1. All faculty with tenure-track or tenured appointments in Physical Sciences and Mathematics Departments are eligible to submit proposals for a GRF each year.

D. School of the Arts

1. Faculty within 10 years of their initial tenure-track appointment are eligible to receive allocations each year.
2. Faculty beyond 10 years of their initial tenure-track appointment may not receive GRF allocations in consecutive years.
3. Applicants may receive GRF support for no more than 1 year for work leading to a creative work, article, book chapter, or exhibition. In evaluating applications for support of larger and more complex book-length or creative projects, the Review Committee will take into account the applicant's progress on the proposed book or project in determining whether another year of GRF funding is appropriate.

E. Social and Behavioral Sciences

1. Individuals are eligible for GRFs only two of any three-year period.
2. Proposals from/to entities other than the Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences are not encouraged. However, joint proposals within the Social Sciences and within the Behavioral Sciences are encouraged. Cross-entity team proposals will be considered for funding for individual researchers must be shared by all entities involved.

III. Timeline & Submission Information

Application call:	December 1, 2025
Application due date:	February 2, 2026
Review panel meetings:	February – March 2026
Award notification date:	By April 10, 2026
Award start date:	July 1, 2026
Award end date:	June 30, 2027
	*Note: All funds must be spent by this date

*****NOTE on deadlines:** *The above dates are **firm deadlines** and we cannot accept late applications. You will receive notification when your application has been received.*

An electronic version of the completed application (preferably as one PDF file, but we also accept multiple PDFs) is due to the College Dean's Office at the following email address clasgrf@ku.edu by **5 pm** on **February 2, 2026** (or as otherwise noted within specific fund descriptions). GRF funds are allocated for the entire fiscal year starting July 1, 2026. All awards are from state funds and are contingent upon approval of the University's budget by the Kansas Legislature. Contact CLAS Office Manager, Melinda Robinson, at lyndjo@ku.edu for questions.

Please use the following format for the email subject line and file(s) name:

GRF2026_lastname,firstinitial

Example: GRF2026_Doe,J.pdf *(for a single pdf)*

— or —

GRF2026_Doe,J.Application.pdf *(for multiple PDF files; label accordingly)*

GRF2026_Doe,J.Budget.pdf

GRF2026_Doe,J.CV.pdf

IV. Proposal Application

The proposal must be submitted on the provided application form and the entire form must be completed. Page limits must be observed and all instructions followed. Poor preparation or lack of clarity may jeopardize the success of the proposal.

Your expected outcomes and any future funding opportunities from the award must be described within your award application.

GRF unit contacts and deadlines are on the KUCR website at <https://research.ku.edu/general-research-fund>

*****Please Note:** While additional explanatory information may be included, applicants may not submit copies of applications for other granting agencies instead of this form. The Review Committee will not interview the applicant in order to understand and evaluate the proposal. The proposal itself should convey an adequate description of the applicant's competencies, interests, achievements, and goals. The application must contain all pertinent information necessary for a thorough evaluation. In the interests of practicality and equity, the Review Committee will not accept additional information after the college deadline.

- A. A one paragraph abstract summarizing research objectives.
- B. Key words.
- C. Timeline.
- D. Budget justification (1-page maximum).
- E. Current, pending and future research support (as relevant).
- F. Research plan of no more than 1,200 words, excluding figures and bibliography.
- G. Progress on past awarded GRF applications.
- H. University Regulations for Research Projects form.
- I. Curriculum vitae/s: see below for more details.
- J. Budget sheet signed by applicant and department chair.

Please note maximum PAGE LIMIT of four (4) pages for the C.V. emphasizing the recent record of the applicant. The C.V. must include:

- a. Dates of all academic degrees.
- b. Recent publications and current and pending grants
- c. Dates of all past and present academic appointments (indicating whether or not they were tenure track).
- d. Grants and awards received, with dates.
- e. Scholarly and creative research, and publication history (include summary, plus publications from the past 5 years).

V. Budget Preparation

Allocations cannot be made for a period longer than the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027). These funds are contingent upon the approval of the University's annual budget by the Kansas Legislature. A budget justification must be included with the proposal. All budget items are to be numerically prioritized according to their critical need to complete the research.

Payroll Dates

Employees may be appointed beginning **6/15/2026 and ending 6/13/2027**

Salaries for faculty investigators

These salaries can be included if necessary to support research and to maintain continuity of research during the summer. No more than 4 weeks of summer salary can be provided from the General Research Fund for faculty members with nine-month appointments. Generally, salaries are limited to 4 weeks of salary. **Summer salaries are limited to a salary for two bi-weekly pay periods OR a maximum of \$7,000 (salary and fringe benefits), whichever is less.**

Fringe benefit costs

The cost of fringe benefits associated with the payment of salary must be included in the budget. Add 37% for faculty, 7% for students, and 37% for non-faculty/non-student positions (e.g., lab assistants, etc.). This represents the employer's portion. Faculty still have to cover their portion of fringe from the gross salary budget amount.

Salaries and tuition for graduate research assistants

Salaries for graduate research assistants must be included at a rate comparable to other GRAs in the faculty member's department or entity. The level of effort and time committed by GRAs should be justified in the body of the proposal or as an addendum to the budget.

Salaries for research assistants

Salaries for graduate research assistants should quote the GRA/GTA pay matrix appropriate to the department in the PI's department or unit.

GRA Tuition

GRA tuition may not be budgeted. However, GRAs may be eligible to have tuition covered in whole or in part from the GRA Tuition Assistance pool. Please see the Graduate Studies website for this policy information at <https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/benefits-for-GRAs-GTAs-GAs>.

Consumable materials

Reasonable amounts of materials may be requested in the proposal including research related travel, per diem to sites, and other materials deemed necessary for the project.

***Budget items considered inappropriate include:**

- Salary of faculty members during the academic year
- Capital equipment (over \$5,000)
- Tuition
- Payments to consultants
- Reprint costs
- Computing costs
- Salaries for technicians and clerical help
- Travel and associated costs to attend professional meetings or conferences
- Computers (laptops, tablets, cellphones, etc.)

VI. Evaluation Procedures

The Vice Chancellor for KU Research will inform the CLAS Dean's Office regarding the amount of money available for funding. For transparency purposes, Department Chairs will then be notified of the allocated amount for their division.

The GRF Review Committees will consist of 4-8 faculty members who represent different divisions within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Humanities, School of the Arts, and Social & Behavioral Sciences). Members of the Review Committee are to serve two-year terms and this will count as a substantial service to the College. The Associate Dean will serve as ad-hoc member of the committee. Chairpersons/unit directors are not eligible to serve on the review committees nor are faculty who intend to apply for GRF funding within the two-year period in which they are serving.

The Dean's Office will send out a call for committee nominations to all faculty in the College and select members for the Review Committee from among the nominations as new members are needed. Department chairs are to nominate **at least three members** from within their ranks to review their proposals and make allocations. Nominees must be individuals with records of successful research/creative work and publications. Individuals submitting GRF proposals are not eligible to serve on review committees. If a sufficient number of members is not available from within the entity, the entity may select members from outside the entity.

The Dean's Office will convene the first meeting and the members of the Review Committee will elect a chair at this first meeting.

The GRF Review Committee will be charged with evaluating proposals according to the GRF guidelines and will make award recommendations. The decisions of the Committee will be honored to the extent possible based on the availability of funds and representation of diversity among awardees and disciplines within the College. The review process is similar to the example set forth by the National Science Foundation where multiple reviewers evaluate each proposal and the committee works together to rank proposals. The committee also includes an additional oversight person who does not make judgements on the proposals but oversees the process to ensure fairness. Applicants who do not receive funding or who receive reduced funding can request feedback from the Associate Dean. We reserve the right to alter funding amounts and numbers of awards at our discretion based on the quality of the applications and availability of funds. All final decisions on funding will be made by the Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Evaluation will be based primarily on the merit of the proposed research and the likelihood that the outcome of the research will substantially improve the competitiveness of a grant proposal to be drafted for subsequent submission to an external agency. Success of past GRF funding will also be taken into consideration; particular attention will be paid to submission of grant proposals based on GRF results, failure to submit proposals will reduce the chances of funding.

Note: Given the necessity of in-house evaluation of proposals, committee members will be kept confidential.

VII. Review Criteria

The primary criterion is merit of the proposal. The concept of merit includes more than the scholarly excellence of the proposal. It also includes the benefit to the institution and to the individual, as well as such factors as an applicant's administrative responsibilities, the need for research support for sabbatical leave, the problems of moving into a new research field, the inaccessibility of funds to younger faculty, etc. Thus, the review subcommittees will consider the following criteria in evaluating individual project applications.

Please note that these funds are competitive, as we expect a large number of applicants. We will be unable to support all applications within a given year, and therefore we encourage multiple submissions in cases where an applicant is not funded in that year.

When applicable, preference will be given to applications that (not in ranked order):

1. Propose a logical, novel, and well thought out plan for conducting the proposed research activities or creative works
2. Demonstrate previous efforts to obtain external funding over the last three years and/or a detailed plan for obtaining external funding within the next 12-18 months (or a publication(s) within that same time period) when applicable
3. Provide support and training for students by participation in the research activities of the project and/or through development of innovative instruction
4. Show a clear connection to the College's strategic plan
5. Propose efficient use of funds and/or smaller budgets as appropriate

Detailed information in the timeline in the application can increase the chances for funding and should include targeted funding agencies and deadlines for applications, as well as possible publication outlets and submission timelines for expected products from this funding (when applicable). Furthermore, a record of applying for external funding on a consistent basis will be viewed positively in the application process (when applicable). These are general criteria and the evaluation of proposals will occur within specific funds and will be based on the critical criteria that is important and relevant for each individual fund.

The following information provides a guide to be used for evaluating critical components in the Project Summary and/or Project Description, although these criteria can vary greatly by fund type.

A. Major Review Criteria

1. Project Significance

- a. What is the importance of the project to the proposer's discipline or the interdisciplinary endeavor?
- b. Will the project lead to subsequent scholarly publications and/or grant related research activities?
- c. Is it routine, original, innovative, creative, or scholarly?
- d. What is the importance of the project in theory development, research, or graduate education in the applicant's discipline?

2. Research / Creative Plan

- a. Are the research objectives clearly stated? An application must be written and designed such that all members of the Review Committee (across disciplines) can read and understand it.
- b. Does the research plan reflect adequate knowledge of current and relevant literature?
- c. Does the research plan describe the research methods adequately?
- d. Does the research plan clearly address the project goals/objectives?
- e. Is there a high probability of successful completion of the proposed objectives within the timeline, budget, and availability of facilities and equipment? Is the project too ambitious to complete the work or under-ambitious as to not have potential for impact?
- f. Will this award increase success in competing for external funding and/or prestigious awards?

3. Qualifications/Scholarly Activities and Achievements/External Submission Activities of Applicant

- a. Is the applicant qualified to complete the proposed research?
- b. Is the applicant recognized as a contributor, expert, or upcoming leader in the field?
- c. Has the applicant shown evidence of scholarly productivity?
- d. Has past GRF support produced viable creative/scholarly results?
- e. Has the applicant attempted to secure external funding for research projects?

B. Additional Review Criteria

In addition to the major criteria listed above, other specific factors are given consideration in the review process:

- 1. Early Career Faculty:** Strong consideration will be given to applicants who are early in their professional careers or senior applicants who are developing a new line of research; preference will be given to applicants who have shown dedication to advancing research and teaching innovations while employed at KU.
- 2. Pilot Projects:** Proposals for pilot projects, which represent the first step(s) toward larger-scale investigations with the potential for external funding will be regarded favorably. Applicants who submit proposals for pilot projects should state the expected source of the outside funding and the efforts that will be made toward securing such funding in the application materials. Renewal of a previously funded GRF project will be considered, but will be given low priority.
- 3. Completion of Projects Funded Elsewhere:** If a project was funded elsewhere and requires modest support for its completion or needs funds to match support already provided by the outside grant, it will be given high consideration, particularly if progress is already great.
- 4. Instructional Research:** Research in innovative and improved instructional techniques and efforts to incorporate undergraduate students in hands-on research and professional opportunities will be well received in the review process. However, we cannot support requests for routine revision of lecture notes, production of standard teaching materials, or normal preparation for new courses.

VIII. Goals

Goals for Behavioral & Social Sciences

- Increase number of grants/fellowship proposals submitted and awarded
- Increase the percentage of GRFs that lead to grant/fellowship proposals
- Increase in scholarly publications associated with GRF proposals

Goals for Humanities

- Encourage major new projects for research
- Promote research by junior faculty
- Increase number of successful grant applications

Goals for Physical Sciences

- Support faculty research
- Support graduate student research
- Enhance scholarly activity, including publications and presentations
- Increase extramural funding

Goals for Life Sciences

- Enhance a faculty member's chances of success in securing extramural funding
- Furthering of research objectives, discovery, funding of graduate students, and resultant publications and presentations at conferences will follow as a result

Goals for School of the Arts

- Encourage major new projects in the arts
- Promote research by junior faculty
- Increase the number of external grants/fellowship applications.

IX. Materials, Products & Acknowledgments

Property

Title to all materials, equipment, supplies, microfilm, computer files, books, tapes, documents, etc. obtained with GRF funds will rest in the University. When such materials are no longer needed for the project they should be released to either the department or to the University Library for use by other faculty members and students.

Acknowledgments and Intellectual Property

All publications, presentations or performances supported in whole or in part by this allocation should bear the following acknowledgment: **"This investigation was supported by the University of Kansas General Research Fund allocation #2301."** If works of art or other products of activity supported by this allocation are to be sold or leased or otherwise yield income, you are expected to consult with the Executive Director of the KU Center for Technology and Commercialization (4-6265). Intellectual property developed as a result of the General Research Fund is subject to the intellectual property policy of both the University of Kansas and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR). These policies can be found at:

[Article - Intellectual Property Polic...](#)

https://www.kansasregents.org/about/policies-by-laws-missions/board_policy_manual_2

X. Post-Award Follow-up

All funds for the FY2026-2027 application process must be spent in full by June 30, 2027. Remaining funds will be returned to the College.