

2020 Faculty Summer Research Grants REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Program Description. This program provides faculty with a \$6,000 stipend to engage in projects that will result in significant advancement of their professional development and field of research, scholarly or creative work.

Eligibility

- Faculty applicants must be employed full-time by WWU for the current academic year and have a contract (or formal agreement of full employment with the university) for the academic year following the grant period.
- Priority will be given to tenured and tenure-track faculty members.
- Priority will be given to quality applications of faculty who have not received the award in the previous two-year period.
- If the award would immediately follow or precede professional leave, it should be clarified in the proposal what will be accomplished during the summer, as distinct from the project undertaken or to be undertaken during the professional leave.
- Faculty may not receive this award in consecutive years.
- Faculty in their first year are not eligible as the university offers identical summer support to first-year faculty.
- Faculty may not hold a Summer Teaching Grant and a Summer Research Grant concurrently.
- All summer appointments combined may not exceed 100% effort.

Evaluation of Proposals. Research Grants are awarded for research, scholarly or artistic/creative endeavors, but not for the development of curricular materials. A committee of faculty with representatives from each College evaluates proposals based on the following criteria:

- Clarity, completeness, and strength of statement of need/problem/creative activity
- Opportunity for advancing professional scholarship of the faculty member
- Likely impact on discipline/students/community
- Suitability/feasibility of methods, staffing and timeline
- Clarity and feasibility of endpoints (publication/performance/display/seeking external funding, etc.)

General Guidelines. Applicants should not assume reviewers are familiar with the details of their scholarly work and should offer sufficient background information to assist the reviewers. Avoid technical jargon. In addition, applicants must indicate if the activity can be accomplished during the summer, and if not, demonstrate that other support is available to sustain the continuation of the work over the necessary timeframe.

Submission Procedure:

1. Submit all required components as one pdf file, attached to the following esign form and forward to your department chair: https://esign.wvu.edu/forms/BFR/_summer_research_grant_1.asp.
2. Department chairs should review the application, complete the rubric with written comments on the esign form, and forward their approvals to their college dean.
3. College deans forward their approvals to research@wvu.edu.

Application Checklist: Proposals must include the following attached to the esign form as one file:

- Proposal Narrative (NOT TO EXCEED TWO PAGES): Description of intended work, explanation of project's importance and methods to be utilized, and expected results or outcome
- Selected bibliography, where appropriate
- Current curriculum vita (NOT TO EXCEED TWO PAGES).

Frequently Asked Questions

How many people tend to apply each year? How many awards are granted?

- The pool of applications varies from year to year, averaging about fifty applications for about 10 grants.

How frequently may an applicant apply for this award? How frequently can an applicant receive this award?

- Applicants may apply every year unless they have received the award in the previous year. Applicants can receive an award every other year. Because the committee values giving opportunities to faculty across campus, preference will be given to quality applications of faculty who have not won the award in the previous two-year period.

May I apply for both a Summer Teaching Grant and a Summer Research Grant at the same time?

- You may apply to both programs, however if offered both awards you may only accept one.

If I held a Summer Teaching Grant last summer may I apply for a Summer Research Award this year?

- Yes you may.

What topics should the grant proposal address?

- The “Proposal Evaluation Criteria” section above includes the core assessment criteria that drive the committee’s selection process.

If awarded a Summer Research Grant, may I use the award to pay for travel and materials?

- The grant is paid as summer salary only, as it is intended to provide faculty with time for the work proposed in the grant application.

May I teach during the summer if I have also received a Summer Research Grant?

- Yes, as long as all summer appointments combined do not exceed 100% effort.

What is the source of the research grant funding?

- The funding for Summer Research Grants comes from a WWU account funded with base (or continuing) money.

Are evaluations or down-selections of proposals required at the department and college level prior to forwarding them to RSP?

- No. Comments will be solicited from chairs but not from a department or college-level committee or from your dean.

I’m first year faculty, am I eligible to apply if I’ve deferred my university summer support?

- Faculty may not simultaneously hold two RSP Summer Grants, so you if you deferred taking your first-year summer grant, you should not apply until your second year.