

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST.LOUIS
OFFICE OF RESEARCH, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**UMSL RESEARCH AWARDS
Request for Proposals**

Applications Due Feb 14, 2025 5:00 PM

Purpose

- UMSL Research Award provides seed funding to encourage faculty to develop innovative research projects and creative works that will lead to external funding

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include full-time, benefit eligible faculty
- Non-tenure track faculty must hold a terminal degree and have a research component to their appointment
- Faculty funded in previous year (2024) by internal research awards (UMSL Research and Mid-Career) are **NOT** eligible to apply
- Faculty previously awarded internal funds must be up to date with reports per award terms and conditions
- Only one application from a faculty member as PI or Co-I is allowed per application cycle
- Any recipient who receives external or internal funding for essentially the same project must return the UMSL Research Award funds to the extent of the overlap

Funding

Award Amount: \$1,000 to \$20,000

Project Period: June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026

- Under certain conditions and with justification, exceptions to these dates may be requested
- Funds must be spent within one year. In limited situations, a 6-month extension may be granted

Graduate Students: Cannot be supported on a research award if they simultaneously hold a Fellowship

Summer Salary: Preference will be given to junior faculty. Generally, tenured faculty will **NOT** be awarded summer salary support

Application Requirements

InfoReady: Complete and Submit Your Application in InfoReady

Reminder: Avoid jargon. Use clear, lay language written for reviewers who will be outside of your discipline. Proposals that are easily understood have higher success rates.

Application Components:

1). Proposal Summary: Complete in InfoReady (Maximum of 300 words, single spaced)

- Provide an overview of the proposed research project or creative work. Include the following headings/sections: objectives, significance and expected results

2). Proposal Narrative (Maximum of 5 pages, single-spaced, font size of 11 or larger, pages numbered consecutively) - Upload to InfoReady

Include the following headings and content:

Objectives

- Clearly state the research aims, research questions or objectives of the proposed project

Background and Significance

- Briefly help the reviewers understand the current state of knowledge in the field
- Discuss previous work by you and others
- Identify gaps in the existing research that the proposed research will fill
- For creative works, describe what is novel and creative about the proposed project

Methods/Approach

- Describe the methods or how you will carry out the proposed research or creative work
- Provide enough detail for reviewers to understand what you propose to do and to evaluate feasibility to carry out the research or creative work in the one-year period
- Discuss any potential challenges and how you will address
- Include a project timeline including start date
- Define roles of all personnel and partners involved including student research assistants

Expected Outcomes

- Discuss how UMSL Research Award funding will advance your research career and what you will be able to accomplish during the project period
- Describe expected outcomes such as preliminary data, manuscripts, grant proposals, book chapters, performances, exhibits, partnerships etc.
- For manuscripts, provide the anticipated number of publications and the names of target journals

External Funding Strategy

- Discuss how the proposed research or creative work will lead to external funding
- Discuss your strategy for obtaining external funding including the specific funding agency and mechanism you plan to apply to and the target application date(s)
- Describe how the proposed research aligns with the mission of the identified funding agency

3) Budget and Budget Justification Spreadsheet – Upload to InfoReady

- Complete the budget template
- Label the spreadsheet file name with your last name (Example: Jones_UMSLResearchAward_Budget)
- Provide a realistic estimate of costs needed to carry out the proposed project. Enter budget justification for each requested item in the budget spreadsheet in Column G
- When budgeting for GRAs use department rates (Check with your College Business Manager or Dept administrator)

5) References Cited – Upload to InfoReady

- Maximum of two single-spaced pages

6) Biographical Sketch (two-page maximum) - Upload to InfoReady

- Provide a two-page biographical sketch/cv that includes Education, Professional Appointments, Evidence of Scholarship (relevant refereed journal articles, book chapters, books, etc.), and Significant Accomplishments, Honors, Awards, and/or Service Contributions

7) Current and Pending Support – Complete in InfoReady

- List all current and pending research support (internal and external) including Title, Funder, Amount requested, Total Award Amount, Project Period and Role

Submit Your Completed Application in InfoReady

- Review your application carefully
- Submit your application in the InfoReady application portal no later than **5:00 PM on Feb 14, 2025**.
- Make sure total amount in spreadsheet matches the total in the InfoReady summary

Review Criteria

Complete applications will be evaluated and scored by the Spring Research Committee of the UMSL Faculty Senate. The committee will provide a ranked list of applications and funding recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Research based on the quality of the proposals and review scores. The VCR will make final award decision based on the committee's recommendations and availability of funds.

Clarity and Persuasiveness

- The extent to which the proposal is comprehensive to scholars in multiple disciplines, many of whom may not be experts in the applicant's field of study

Significance and Intellectual Merit

- Significance of the work to the applicant's career and to the field
- The extent to which the research addresses a key gap or need or the extent to which the project is creative or novel

Approach

- Clearly defined aims or project goals and research methods or creative approach including realistic timeline and project roles
- The extent to which the applicant and team possesses the expertise to accomplish the proposed project
- Expected outcomes

Potential to Lead to External Funding

- Potential of the work to lead to external funding and improvement of the applicant's position to compete for external funding

Budget

- The extent to which the applicant justifies proposed costs