

Research Council Small and Large Grants AY2023-2024 Up to \$15,000

<https://research.missouri.edu/internal-funding>

Research Council Grants are awarded to support research, scholarship, and creative activities conducted by tenured, tenure-track, and ranked non-tenure track faculty members, with an earned doctorate (or the discipline's highest earned terminal degree; e.g., MFA), at the level of Assistant Professor and above.

Requests for Research Council funding that are clearly aligned with institutional priorities for research, scholarship, and creative activities are of great importance to the Office of Research, Innovation & Impact. These priorities include, for instance, activities that lead to book contracts with academic publishers, juried theater and music performances and art exhibits, peer-reviewed research articles in AAU-endorsed journals (<https://libraryguides.missouri.edu/WhereToPublish/AAUMetrics>), and the generation of robust pilot data to bolster proposals for external funding.

Research Council Grants provide funds for project expenses totaling as much as \$15,000. There are two levels of funding: Small grants are for requests up to \$1,000 and large grants are for requests greater than \$1,000 and to the maximum of \$15,000.

2023-2024 DEADLINES	NOTIFICATION DATES
August 21, 2023 - 5PM	October 2, 2023
October 9, 2023 - 5PM	December 11, 2023
January 16, 2024 - 5PM	March 4, 2024
March 12, 2024 - 5PM	May 6, 2024

Applicants should submit Research Council proposals at least **four months** prior to the projected start date for their research project. Projected start dates cannot be earlier than the notification date.

Courtesy Compliance Review

To ensure that you have complied with these Guidelines, the Internal Funding Coordinator can provide a *courtesy compliance review* of your application. To receive a courtesy review, applicants must email the complete application, as described on pp. 5-11 and saved as a .pdf, to internalfunding@missouri.edu at least five (5) days prior to the posted deadline. Any elements of non-compliance will be communicated to applicants by email; it is the responsibility of applicants to submit their corrected application via InfoReady (as described on p. 4) by the deadline date and time.

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Changes to RC Guidelines from 2022-2023

- There have been no changes to the guidelines from 2022-2023

ELIGIBILITY

1. Tenured, tenure-track, and ranked non-tenure track MU faculty, with an earned doctorate (or the discipline's highest earned terminal degree; e.g., MFA), at the level of Assistant Professor and above. Faculty with only an adjunct appointment at the University of Missouri-Columbia are not eligible to submit a RC application as PI.
2. Research team membership is limited to no more than 1 PI and up to 2 Co-Is; these names must appear on the application.
3. A faculty member's name can only appear on one Research Council application per deadline (in any role).
4. Faculty members are limited to no more than one active Research Council grant at the same time, excluding Small Research Council grants.
5. Faculty members are limited to three Research Council grants in any five-year period, excluding Small Research Council grants.
6. A faculty outcome report must be submitted in InfoReady for all previous Research Council awards. An outcome report can be submitted [here](#).
7. Faculty members may receive Summer Research Salary for no more than 2 summers in any five-year period.
8. Emeritus faculty can apply if they are currently employees of the University and will continue to be an employee for a minimum of one-year following the completion of a funded award.
9. The University expects the applicant to remain a University employee for a minimum of one-year following completion of a funded project.
10. If the PI's appointment includes no percent research effort, a letter of support is required from the PI's department Chairperson that explains how the applicant's current appointment will be modified to accommodate the proposed research activity. This includes NTT faculty with 100% teaching appointments and TT faculty with 100% administrative appointments.

Application Preparation and Submission

All Research Council applications are submitted electronically through InfoReady (electronic proposal system), located at <https://umsystem.infoready4.com/>

Applicants should keep in mind that members of the Research Council Committee represent a variety of disciplines from across the campus. Therefore, **applicants are strongly advised to prepare their proposals without excessive jargon and in a style that is clear to reviewers who are not experts in the specified area.**

Information about Research Council is available at <https://research.missouri.edu/internal-funding/research-council-grants>

Applicants' questions about the submission process can be submitted to internalfunding@missouri.edu.

Application Format

- All applications must use a 12-point or larger font or 15 characters or less per inch, and be single-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- The applicant's last name is to appear as a header in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Application Sections 1 through 5 (detailed below) are to be combined into a single PDF document in the order indicated below for submission in InfoReady.
- All application text should be presented in English. If particular words, a section of text, or a document are essential and are not presented in English, a translation is to be provided.
- Applications should be prepared without excessive jargon and in a style that is clear to reviewers who are not experts in the specified area.
- RESUBMISSIONS: Resubmissions must include an additional 2-page response to reviewers at the beginning of the revised application. **Text that has been revised from the original application must be indicated by using a blue font.**

Application Sections

The sections below comprise a Research Council application. Detailed descriptions of each section follow.

1. Detailed Plan of Project
2. Biographical Sketch/Curriculum Vitae
3. Current and Pending Internal and External Support
4. Budget Request and Justification
5. Letters of Support

Please note, an Appendix can be submitted as a separate file if relevant (detailed description appears below); **however, Research Council reviewers are not required to review Appendices. It is in the applicant's best interest that the Detailed Plan of the project be self-contained.**

1. Detailed Plan of Project

Maximum of 5 pages for items A – F; no page limits for items G and H

The plan should include the following information:

- A. Overall goals and objectives or specific aims
- B. Relevant background and literature
- C. Significance of project
- D. Methods and procedures (For *book-related projects*, applicants should include: (a) the proposed table of contents, (b) a description of the work completed thus far, and (c) a timeline for completing the entire project).
- E. Justification – How will completion of the proposed work facilitate future career goals? Applicants must provide explanation for how the proposed work will support institutional priorities for research, scholarship, and creative activities. If the PI’s appointment includes no percent research effort, a letter of support is required from the PI’s department Chairperson that explains how the applicant’s current appointment will be modified to accommodate the proposed research activity. This includes NTT faculty with 100% teaching appointments and TT faculty with 100% administrative appointments.
- F. Study Timeline – A timeline detailing the phases of the project must be included. Note that the RC project must begin within 6 months of notice of award and must be completed within a 12 month timeframe unless strong scientific justification is provided.
- G. Requests for Summer Research Salary (SRS; parameters explained below in Budget Request and Justification) must be accompanied by a detailed timeline and description of the proposed activities to take place during the period of SRS. Additionally, a description of the proposed outcomes must be included (e.g., what is the ultimate goal for SRS and how will that goal be achieved during the period of the SRS support?). If the proposed project extends beyond the period of the SRS, clearly indicate what will be accomplished during the time of the award and how/when the project will be completed. **A letter of support from the appropriate Department Chair or Director confirming that the applicant is released from all teaching and administrative duties during the period of SRS is required as part of the application.**
- H. Citations
- I. Book-Related Supporting Documents, including Subvention Requests:
Applicants requesting Research Council funding to work on book-related activities should include, as a separate PDF, all available peer reviews, the specific terms of the contract between author and publisher, including if a subvention is required, the terms under which any revenue generated by the sale of the work shall be returned to the author and, when possible, the executed book proposal.

The Research Council considers requests for book subvention assistance in cases where the publisher:

- is a non-commercial press;
- uses a peer-review mechanism for selecting books to publish, and;

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- stipulates that a subvention is necessary for the book to be published, as in the case where the anticipated sale is too small or too slow to permit timely recovery by the publishers of the initial production expense.

The Research Council asks that authors not suggest the possibility of a publication subvention in their communications with publishers in cases where no publisher stipulation exists.

2. Biographical Sketch/Curriculum Vitae

Maximum page limit of 2 pages per applicant

Include all of the information below for each applicant listed on the application; federal funding agency bio-sketch forms (e.g., NIH) that are no longer than 2 pages and that include all required information will be accepted.

Include the following information:

- A. Education. Indicate institution, degrees, and dates.
- B. Employment History. Include postdoctoral research and/or professional experience.
- C. Research Support. List research projects which highlight your accomplishments. Indicate grantor, inclusive dates, and amount of each award. This is information not recorded in the "Internal and External Support" section.
- D. List, as appropriate, research/scholarly publications, juried performances, and/or curated exhibits most closely related to the proposed project and other significant publications: include titles and all authors. Indicate refereed journals, juried shows, etc. with an asterisk (*). Summarize your productivity by indicating the total number of refereed and non-refereed journal articles, books, book chapters, invited papers, invited performances, juried shows, etc.

3. Current and Pending Internal and External Support

No page limit

For each applicant listed on the application page, **please address items A, B, and C.**

A. Research Council Support from the past 5 years

List prior Research Council Awards for all applicants. The applicant must complete or update a **Faculty Outcome Report** for Research Council support that was awarded in the past 5 years. Outcome reports will be submitted in InfoReady [here](#). Please note, applications from individuals who have received previous Research Council Support but have not submitted a Faculty Outcomes Report will be returned and not be reviewed; applicants will be invited to submit for the next deadline. If an applicant or co-applicant has not had Research Council grant funding in the last 5 years, a Faculty Outcome Report does not need to be submitted.

As per B. and C. below, faculty with current internal and/or external research support are required to include, for each funding source, a statement about how the current request is unique and does or does not overlap with these other sources of funding. If the PI has other significant sources of funding, there must be strong justification provided for the need for the RC funding request.

B. Other Internal Support.

List all *other* current and pending internal funds, including, for example, start-up funds, departmental or school/college funding, Agricultural Experiment Station monies, and any other special programmatic funds (e.g., Coulter).

1. Provide source of support, project title, dates of project period, award amount, and extent of overlap with the proposed project.
2. Provide information about any other funding sources available to support the proposed project, including personal sources that will be used (e.g., salary savings, Research Incentive Funds).

C. External Support.

List all current and pending external applications and awards. Provide source of support, project title, dates of project period, award amount, and extent of overlap with the proposed project.

4. Budget Request and Justification

Maximum 2 pages

Applicants may request up to \$15,000. Allowable expenses are listed in the “Budget Categories” section below. Round all budget items to the nearest dollar. If applicant and any co-applicants currently have funding for a similar project through outside agencies, a detailed explanation must be given when requesting funds for similar items from the Research Council. If other sources of funding are necessary for completing the proposed research (e.g., department or divisional funds), please indicate the amount/share of those other sources in the overall cost of the research. Research Council funds will not be awarded to fund expenses for research collaborators or co-investigators with external institutional affiliations.

Budget Categories. The Research Council Committee considers requests for support in the following categories. Each item in the requested budget should be carefully explained and fully justified. Applicant must explain why the current funding request is needed. The Research Council Committee will review the budget and may recommend a reduction if the need for each requested item, or its cost, is not clearly established.

- **Summer Research Salary.** Summer Research Salary (SRS) may be requested as part of a Large Research Council Grant application. SRS is intended to support faculty who will dedicate the summer to original scholarly, research, and creative activities that will result in publications, exhibitions, and other scholarly and creative accomplishments. During the SRS award, faculty dedicate their full time to research projects completely unencumbered by teaching and

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administrative responsibilities. Accordingly, SRS recipients, during the SRS period, must not be employed at the University in any other capacity, and not accept other profitable employment. SRS awards are for up to \$10,000 in summer salary, **including** Fringe Benefits. Applicants can request up to \$5,000 in companion funding to support the summer research activities. Requests for companion funds must be justified as per the allowable budget categories described below.

SRS justifications must explicitly address why the research project proposed cannot be completed during the regular academic year, when most faculty have a percentage of their appointment dedicated to conducting research.

A letter of support from the appropriate Department Chair or Director confirming that the applicant is released from all teaching and administrative duties during the period of SRS is required as part of the application.

Examples of previously funded SRS projects include: 2 weeks of travel to an archive located abroad for the purpose of primary source research, relocation of numerous, large artworks for an exhibit in a museum located abroad, and travel to conduct intensive interview, observational, and/or focus group research with a remote population.

- **Other Personnel.** Funds for other personnel must be justified as an integral and essential component of the proposed project. Generally, such support will be limited to those activities in which the faculty member either does not have the appropriate expertise or for other reasons could not reasonably be expected to perform the task. If requesting funds to hire a person outside of the University, please contact Business Services. Salary support cannot be requested for Co-Investigators who are tenured, tenure track, or ranked non-tenure track faculty at the University of Missouri, this includes all campuses in the UM System.
- **Students.** The Research Council considers funding requests for projects that involve undergraduate and graduate student participation as research assistants. Funds requested to support graduate student research assistants must be accompanied by a detailed description of the research tasks the student(s) will perform, the anticipated amount of time required to complete the tasks, and the professional development benefits that will result from the student(s)' involvement in the project. In the case of requests for .25 and .50 graduate research assistants, the budget must reflect the 'true cost' for all student stipends, tuition, and graduate student medical insurance as per the [OSPA Grant Fact Sheet](#). **While the \$15,000 Research Council request can be used for graduate student stipends, it cannot be utilized to cover tuition waivers or graduate student medical insurance.**
- **Equipment.** The Research Council Committee will fund proposals for equipment to support specific research activities. The applicant should establish that such equipment is not reasonably available for the proposed project elsewhere and is critical to completion of the project. Please note, all equipment purchased, in part or totally, with Research Council funds, is the property of the University of Missouri, Columbia.

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- **Computing.** The Research Council Committee will consider funding requests for computer software. Requests for computers **require special justification and must be project specific**, and require that you work with your department IT professionals to ensure capabilities can be met.

- **Research Travel.** The Research Council Committee will consider reasonable and necessary requests to defray costs for foreign and domestic travel to the primary destination for the conduct of research, scholarly, and creative activities. Provide the justification of the planned travel to the direct benefit of the project. Awards are typically limited to lowest round-trip airfare. Requests for lodging and meal expense reimbursement at a modest level will be considered. Applicants should consult university policy (<https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/fa/procurement/travel>) in developing budget requests for travel expenses.

- **Other Expenses.** Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide evidence that materials will be obtained at the lowest possible prices. If research participant incentives are included in your budget, please justify the need for incentives and for the level of incentive funding requested.

Overview of Allowable and Not Allowable Costs associated with Research Council Awards

Allowable Costs	Not Allowable Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Research Salary • Undergraduate student research assistants • Graduate student research assistants • Equipment • Computing and data entry • Travel to primary destination for the conduct of research, scholarly and creative activities • Local travel • Lodging and meal reimbursement • Consumable supplies • Permission fees • Publication costs • Copying costs • Participant fees • Animal use costs • Routine lab and field work • Computer Software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Aid • Tuition Fee Waivers • Student Health Insurance • Salary for the PI, except for Summer Research Salary • Salary support for Co-Is who are tenured, tenure track, or ranked non-tenure track faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia. • Bridge salary for non-regular faculty • Preparation of textbooks • Preparation of a course or portion of a course • Projects of an explicitly commercial nature • Book Indexing Costs • Travel to disseminate information • Local, state, regional and international conferences, symposia and workshops including participants' travel and logistics of implementation

5. Letters of Support

(No page limit)

Letters of Support are required from all external entities and/or non-MU collaborators whose involvement is critical to meeting the project's aims. Examples include school districts, state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other similar external institutions.

A Letter of Support is required from your department chairperson if:

- The PI's appointment includes no percent research. This includes 100% teaching appointments and 100% administrative appointments. The letter should explain exactly how the PI's appointment will be modified to accommodate the time required to complete the proposed study.
- The PI is requesting Summer Research Salary. The letter of support should provide confirmation that you will be released from all teaching and administrative duties during the period of Summer Research Salary.
- There is a question/concern about the PI's independence to perform the work proposed. The letter should detail the faculty member's independent area of research, their independence to perform the work proposed, and support for future extramural funding opportunities.

6. Appendix

Include an appendix only if essential (e.g., complex equations or statistical methodology, sample artwork). If an Appendix is warranted, up to 2 additional documents may be included; the file is to be named Your Last Name_Appendix.pdf and uploaded separately to InfoReady as a PDF.

Reviewers are not required to review the Appendix. It is in the applicant's best interest that the Detailed Plan of the project be self-contained.

Adherence to these application guidelines ensures equity and fairness among all grant applicants, therefore, applications that are not submitted in the requested single PDF, are incomplete, are without sections in the correct order, and that do not meet the format and/or section page-limit requirements will be returned and not be reviewed; applicants will be invited to submit for the next deadline.

Research Compliance

All research must be conducted in compliance with Federal and University Regulations.

If your research project will involve any of the following, please work with the appropriate offices to ensure protocols and necessary approvals are in place when funding notices are issued.

- **Human Subjects:** Application information and forms may be obtained from the website listed below. If an active IRB approval pertains to the Research Council awarded project, the IRB record should be amended to reflect the funding source as the “Research Council Grant”.
<https://research.missouri.edu/human-subjects-research>
- **Vertebrate Animals:** Application information and forms may be obtained from the website listed below. A grant/protocol comparison will be conducted by the Animal Care Quality Assurance office prior to the transfer of funds.
<https://research.missouri.edu/index.php/animal-research>
- **Export Control:** For research involving collaboration, or sharing technology with colleagues in foreign countries, training foreign nationals, shipping equipment to a foreign country, or work with a country subjected to US sanctions, please contact the Office of Research Export Compliance Manager (884-9954). <https://research.missouri.edu/index.php/export-controls>
- **Environmental Health and Safety:** For research involving any hazardous, radioactive, chemical or biologically restricted materials. Application forms for the following committees – Hazardous Materials, Radiation Safety, rDNA/Biosafety - can be found on the Institutional BioSafety website: <https://research.missouri.edu/institutional-biosafety-committee>

Conflict of Interest: Employees must self-disclose outside interests or business activities that represent a conflict of interest. Following submission of your proposal, please expect email correspondence with additional instruction required to complete your application. Information is available from the Conflict of Interest website (<https://research.missouri.edu/conflict-of-interest>).

The Research Council does not need documentation of compliance approval(s), protocols or e-mail documentation at the time of the application submission. If your proposal is selected for funding, documentation of research compliance will be requested and confirmed by the Internal Funding Coordinator. Funds will not be released until all research compliance approvals are received and confirmed. Questions related to research compliance procedures can be sent to internalfunding@missouri.edu.

Research Council Committee Information

Members of Research Council Committee, who are appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Impact, review Research Council grant applications. The Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Impact makes awards based on recommendations from the Research Council Committee.

Contact with current Council members regarding your application during its preparation or before or after review is inappropriate, due to the potential for and the appearance of a conflict of interest.

A list of current members is available at <https://research.missouri.edu/internal-funding/research-council-grants>

Criteria Used in the Review

In the review process, the Council seeks to identify and support the most worthy applications, regardless of discipline or faculty rank. The Research Council Committee strongly encourages cost matches from other sources, including Divisions, Departments, RIF accounts, salary savings, or external funding.

All applications are reviewed in accord with the following criteria:

- **Goals/Objectives.** Is the overall goal of the project (e.g., hypothesis and/or objectives) well-conceived and important?
- **Intrinsic Merit** (i.e., Significance, originality, creativity, and alignment with institutional priorities). If the project is successful, will it result in an important, original contribution? How will the proposed project advance institutional priorities for research, scholarship, and creative activities?
- **Design & Procedures.** Reviewers look for methodological details that are typically included for the type of research proposed. For instance, for research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, are participant eligibility criteria and recruitment goals articulated? Are psychometric properties of surveys and assessments included? Are experimental protocols adequately described? How will individuals conducting the research protocols be trained and supervised? Is statistical power addressed, even for under-powered designs? Is the data analytic approach aligned with the project's research aims and described with sufficient detail? Is a project timeline with specific outcomes included? In general, are the design and procedures appropriate to achieve the project goals?
- **Feasibility.** Is the project likely to succeed? Can the project be completed in the time allowed? Are the necessary support resources available? Are letters of support included?
- **Qualifications.** Does the applicant have the training and demonstrated expertise in the area of the proposed project?
- **Productivity.** Has the applicant demonstrated productivity in publications, presentations, and creative works? What products have resulted from past Research Council support?
- **Need for the Resources.** What resources are available to the applicant? What resources are available to support work in the field? What special circumstances exist (e.g., new scholar, new project, interruption of external funding)? What opportunities exist for "leveraging" the funds to enhance (e.g., extend, expand) the proposed project and attract future external

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funding? For project in disciplines where external support is available, the Council gives special consideration to projects that have great promise for applications to external agencies.

- **Budget Evaluation.** Is the budget adequate and appropriate?
- **Response to Previous Review.** Did the applicant provide adequate responses to the reviewers' comments from the original application submission?

Resubmission of Research Council Grant Applications:

If an application is not recommended for funding, applicants have the option of resubmitting a revised proposal to another Research Council deadline. Only one resubmission is allowed for a given project within a two-year period.

Applicants must also include a statement (2-page limit) with the resubmission that specifically addresses the comments of the reviewers and how the revised proposal reflects consideration of those comments. The applicant should not only include a response statement; they should also edit the Detailed Plan of Project accordingly. This response to reviewers should be included as the first 2 **additional** pages of the application. **Text that is revised from the original application must be presented in blue text.** In addition, while the request for a resubmission is promising, it should be emphasized that this does not guarantee eventual approval or award.

If a proposal has been submitted two times for Research Council review and not funded, it cannot be revised and re-submitted. The Research Council recognizes that for many PIs, multiple projects in a sustained, programmatic line of research may bear some similarities to one another. However, a new proposal must differ substantially from previously unfunded proposals. If the new proposal does overlap with a previously unfunded proposal, the PI is asked to include in the new application a discussion of the nature and extent of overlap in order to support the new application's substantial difference.

Administration of Awards

The Office of Research submits the proposals to the Research Council Committee and administers its recommendations. Within reasonable bounds, projects approved for funding by the Research Council Committee are to be completed as described in the original application. Please note, Research Council funds cannot be used for reimbursement for items purchased before the grant start date. The earliest a grant account can be established is the first of the month during which the grant application was approved.

In order for funds to be distributed, an official grant start date, MoCode for the transfer of funds, and approval letters or approved protocols for any compliance requirements must be emailed to internalfunding@missouri.edu. The project start date must occur within 6 months from the date on the award letter. The RC project must be completed within a 12 month timeframe.

No Cost Time Extension

If the project extends beyond the duration of the project period, a formal request for an extension must be e-mailed to internalfunding@missouri.edu at least 30 days prior to the termination date of the project. Only a single, one-year extension will be allowed.

Changes in Project Scope of Work

If significant changes in the research project are contemplated, they should be described in writing to internalfunding@missouri.edu, who, in consultation with the Faculty Fellow, will decide whether to approve the changes or resubmit the proposal to the Council as a whole. *Please note that Research Council awards are not transferrable among investigators.*

Summer Research Salary (SRS)

SRS stipends may be awarded for up to \$10,000 (including Fringe Benefits) to cover up to two months of research activity depending on the nature of the project. Applicants should specify in the proposal the anticipated amount of time to be spent on the project. Applicants can request up to \$5,000 in companion funding to support the summer research activities.

Additionally, if an applicant is awarded SRS and also has summer salary support from an outside agency that limits the funds for salary to less than 2/9 of the applicants regular nine month salary, the applicant may *use the SRS to supplement the salary award from the outside agency*, up to an amount that equals 2/9 of the applicant's regular nine-month salary. (Some outside agencies do not allow for supplementation of salary for the two-month summer period. In such unusual circumstances, compensation may be negotiated for a longer period during the summer). Summer salary from internal funding sources (Research Council is limited to 2/9 of the applicant's regular nine-month salary).

At the end of the project period, all funds will revert to the Research Council unless an extension is granted. Funds not used at the end of the extension will revert to the Research Council. Please

work with your department fiscal administrator and the [Internal Funding Coordinator](#) when funds need to be returned to the Research Council.

Reporting

A Research Council Outcome report, including an Income Statement(s), will be completed in InfoReady on an annual basis, beginning one year after the awarded project start date and until all Research Council-related project activities have concluded.

An outcome report can be submitted [here](#).