The University of Cincinnati Office of Research
University Research Council (URC)
Faculty Scholars Research Awards

The Office of Research is pleased to share the 2024-2025 FOA for the URC Faculty Scholars Research Awards Program. Building upon the rich legacy of the University Research Council (URC), UC's oldest and most prestigious internal funding program, the URC Faculty Scholars Research Awards are meant to recognize promising UC early career faculty who are proposing transformative ideas that will shape our future. This program is for individual faculty and may be discipline-focused or interdisciplinary in nature.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Up to fifteen finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and share a 15-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

Eight URC Faculty Scholars Research Awardees will be designated annually. Faculty across all UC, whose research, scholarship and creative activities fall within the areas of Arts & Humanities, Behavioral & Social Sciences, Physical Science & Engineering, and the Life Sciences, are encouraged to apply

Awards: All awards will be for $25,000 and for a period of 24 months. Budgets will only be required from awardees and will be created in collaboration with the Office of Research.

KEY DATES
FOA Released: September 4, 2024
LOI Due: November 4, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST
Finalists Notified: Week of December 2, 2024 (anticipated)
Final Proposal Deadline: January 21, 2025 by 5:00 pm EST (for finalists only)
Finalist Presentations: Week of February 3, 2025 (anticipated)
Awardees Announced: Week of March 10, 2025 (anticipated)
Award Project Period: May 2025 – April 2027

Program Information
The University Research Council (URC) funding program is UC's oldest and most prestigious internal funding mechanism. Since 1971, the URC has worked in partnership with the Vice President for Research to advance high-potential faculty who demonstrate excellence in research, scholarship, and creative work.

The URC Faculty Scholars Program was established as part of UC's **Research2030** strategic plan for research to support faculty representing the bright future for UC. This program seeks to bolster tenure-track faculty efforts early in their career to help them identify solutions to the complex questions, problems and challenges facing society.

The goals of the URC Faculty Scholars program are to 1) Recognize outstanding early career researchers, scholars, and creatives for inclusive, impactful, and innovative work; 2) Drive excellence in all areas of research, scholarship, and creative endeavors; and 3) Advance high-potential, high-impact activities to the next level.

The expected outcomes for this program are to: 1) Support and propel early career investigators towards greater success and prominence; 2) Advance high-potential research and creative activities in emergent areas; and 3) Increase faculty competitiveness and capacity for major extramural awards and funding.

Awardees will be selected based on the quality, novelty, and impact of their research, scholarship, and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge creation and improved societal outcomes. URC Faculty Scholar Awards are essentially unrestricted funds that can be used as best determined by the Awardee to achieve the desired outcomes and goals of the proposed activity.

Eligibility

- *This is an early career program*; therefore, UC faculty members must be tenure-track faculty who have not yet been granted tenure at UC or elsewhere.
- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment, with UC being the primary appointment.
- Only one application per eligible faculty member is allowed. There are no limits to the numbers of applicants per unit or college.
- Otherwise eligible faculty who received past URC or Office of Research funding may apply. Previously funded applicants must have met all requirements of former awards within budget and timeframe AND the proposed area of research, scholarship or creative activities may not duplicate that previously supported. Note: such previous awardees will be required to provide evidence that the previously funded project was successful if invited as a finalist.
- Otherwise eligible faculty with external funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded.

Letter of Intent submission requirements
Applications will be submitted online via Wizehive, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the application is available on the Wizehive platform, the live link to apply will be posted at https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

Letter of Intent Materials

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, college, department/unit, date of hire/appointment at UC, anticipated academic year for tenure review, and proposal title within the Wizehive portal prior to uploading the required pdf file.

All applicants should select the area designation for review/award based on their proposed activities, which can differ from their department/unit home.

The LOI should contain the following information in the order listed below and will be submitted as a single PDF file. Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included. Your submission must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout.

1. Research Interest and Impact (2 pages maximum).
   - PROPOSAL TITLE AND APPLICANT NAME
   - PROBLEM STATEMENT: What problem/research area are you passionate about and why is this particular problem/research area worth addressing?
   - APPROACH: Describe – at a high level – the approach you will take to address this particular problem.
   - OUTCOMES/IMPACT: Describe why this research will be important as evidenced by the potential outcomes and impacts your work will have on the field and more broadly.
2. Bibliography/References Cited. Full reference details for all citations. (1 page maximum)
3. Biographical Sketch/CV using the TEMPLATE (3 page maximum)

LOI Review Criteria:
- Project Merit
  - Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed
  - Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach
  - Project outcomes including contribution to field of study or potential to establish new multi/interdisciplinary area along with assessment measures; and broader impacts (e.g., efforts to broaden participation; potential to place UC/college/unit as leader in field; alignment with UC, local or state priorities)
- Suitability of the proposer to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

Finalist Selection & Review Process: Each URC Faculty Scholars Research Award LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by and including the VP for Research. No more than 15 finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Neither comments nor feedback on LOIs will be provided to applicants, however comments and feedback on full proposals will be made available to finalists.

Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

Note: URC Faculty Scholar Awardees will be required to serve as reviewers for future URC Faculty Scholar Program competitions.

QUESTIONS? Email research@uc.edu