

## The University of Cincinnati Office of Research **Collaborative Research Projects: Pilots Grant Program**

*Up to five \$25,000 General Pilot Grants awarded*

*Up to two \$25,000 Space-specific Pilot Grants awarded*

*Up to two \$25,000 International Collaboration-specific Pilot Grants awarded*

Consistent with Office of Research goals to spur interdisciplinary research and establish new partnerships within and beyond the institution, the pilot program is designed to seed promising, collaborative research endeavors to elevate teams' competitiveness for external funding. The expected outcomes for this program include: 1) Advance high-potential, team research and creative activities in emergent areas; 2) Empower interdisciplinary teams to drive breakthrough innovations and achieve prominence; and 3) Increase teams' competitiveness and capacity for major extramural awards and funding.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). No more than 15 finalists inclusive of all tracks will then be invited to submit a full proposal and share a 15-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

As part of the process, applicants are asked to consider, articulate, and ultimately measure how the project positively impacts society. As high-level frames of reference, the Office of Research refers applicants to two impact frameworks:

1. [The Arts & Social Impact Explorer](#)
2. [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(UNSDGs\)](#)

### **KEY DATES**

FOA Release: September 3, 2025

LOI Due: November 20, 2025 by 5:00 pm EST

Finalist Notification: Week of December 8, 2025 (*anticipated*)

Finalist Proposal Deadline: January 21, 2026 by 5:00 pm EST (finalists only)

Finalist Presentations: Week of February 9, 2026 (*anticipated*)

Grantees Announced: Week of March 9, 2026 (*anticipated*)

Grant Project Period: May 2026 – May 2028

### **Eligibility & Expectations**

- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment;
- Faculty holding a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC or VA) are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be the primary applicant;
- External collaborators are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be primary applicant;
- To foster new talent, ideas, and intellectual diversity, faculty who have NOT received Office of Research grant funding in the last five years (2021- 2025) from the UC Office of Research (except the URC Scholar program) will be given preferential consideration.
- Eligible faculty with *external* funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded.

## **Tracks: Pilot applicants for all tracks should follow the instructions below**

- Track 1: General Pilot Project – these can be any collaborative research projects across multiple disciplines at UC
- Track 2: Space Research Pilot Project – collaborative research projects aligned with advancing UC's research activities in space-related research (see [ASTRO](#) for more info)
- Track 3: International Collaborative Research Pilot Project – collaborative research projects between UC faculty and international research partners

## **LOI: Information Required**

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, [ORCID](#), college, department/unit, date of hire/appointment at UC, and proposal title within the Wizehive portal prior to uploading the required PDF file. **Applicants must select the appropriate track when registering in Wizehive.** Also, Applicants are required to select the area designation for review/award based on their proposed activities, which can differ from their department/unit home.

**The LOI should be written for a general university audience in terms readily understood by those who are not experts in the field. Avoid jargon, acronyms, or other technical terminology.**

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)
  - Title of Research Project
  - Track Selected
  - Name, Title, College, and Department of primary applicant
  - Names, Titles, College, & Department of internal/affiliate collaborators
  - Names, Titles, and Organization names of external collaborators (Required for Track 3/Optional for Tracks 1 and 2)
  - Problem Statement (300 word max) *What problem do you want to solve & why?*
  - Approach (300 word max) *How are you going to solve this problem?*
  - Impact (300 word max) *What is the anticipated outcome and who will be ultimately impacted?*
  - **Track 2 only** – (200 word max) *How does this project advance research in space-related areas?*
  - **Track 3 only** – (200 word max) *What is the rationale for including this international partner, and how will the international partner advance research at UC?*
2. Bibliography (1-page max – any standard format is acceptable)
3. 3-page biosketch/CV (template available on the website)
4. *For Track 2 only, please provide a one-page summary stating your interest in space exploration.*

### **LOI: Submission**

LOIs will be submitted online via *Wizehive*, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the platform is ready to accept LOIs, the live link to apply will be posted at <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

### **LOI: Review Criteria**

- Project Merit
- Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed
- Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach
- Suitability of the team to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

### **Finalist Selection & Review Process**

Each Pilot LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by Office of Research Program staff. No more than 15 finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

Finalists will be selected based on the quality, novelty, team composition and impact of the proposed research, scholarship and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge and broadly impact society.

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

Awardees who accept Office of Research internal funds to conduct research agree to serve as a reviewer for Office of Research funding competitions for two years following their acceptance of funds.

**Note: Finalists selected for Track 3 (International Collaborative Research) Pilot Projects who show significant progress towards their milestones will be invited to apply for supplemental funding to send a research trainee to their collaborator institution for up to one semester. See this link for details: <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>**

**QUESTIONS?** Contact [research@uc.edu](mailto:research@uc.edu)