University of CINCINNATI | OFFICE OF RESEARCH

The University of Cincinnati's Graduate College and Office of Research
University Research Council (URC) Graduate Student Stipend and Research Cost Program for Faculty—Student Collaboration
Request for Proposals (RFP) in PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Funding is available to support up to 8 awards in the Physical Sciences and Engineering.

Program Overview

The Graduate College and the Office Research are pleased to announce the 2026-2027 RFP for the University Research Council (URC) Graduate Student Stipend and Research Cost Program for Faculty—Student Collaboration.

The 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 research, scholarship and creative work, including that conducted by our graduate students. Following the Teacher-Scholar model of graduate education, this URC program provides summer stipend support to outstanding graduate students working in collaboration with a UC faculty member.

A total of $8,500 will be awarded: $7,500 towards the stipend, inclusive of fringe benefits, for the graduate student, and up to $1,000 for associated research costs to the department.

Key Dates

RFP Released: November 2, 2026
Proposal Deadline: January 14, 2027 by 5:00 pm ET
Awardees Announced: Week of March 8, 2027 (anticipated)
Research Project Period: 2027 Summer Semester

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include UC graduate students who will still be enrolled by December of the following academic year (December 2027).
- Eligible students must be able to accept the stipend for Summer Semester 2027.
- Eligible students must have attempted less than 174 credit hours at the University of Cincinnati during the award period. Hours attempted include hours for which credit has been awarded, as well as withdrawn courses, audited courses, and hours in progress or incomplete.
- Eligible Faculty Collaborators are UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment. Faculty who hold a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC and VA) and an affiliate appointment at UC may serve as a collaborator if the relevant UC department manages the funds and the relevant UC department head approves of the arrangement. Adjuncts and visiting professors are not eligible.
- Eligible students may only submit one application to one track (Arts & Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, or Physical Sciences & Engineering).
- Past awardees are able to apply each year they are eligible.
- Applicants with external funding are eligible to apply only if the activities do not duplicate those already funded at the time of award.

Program Directors

The number of applications submitted through each graduate program is limited, and there is a requirement for a pre-review by the department/college of the applicant. The number of applications that can be submitted per graduate program is listed in the **Program Application Limit** document. Applications require approval of the graduate program through completion of the "Graduate Program Director Form" certifying that the submission is within the allowable limit.

Deadlines for internal proposal review and format requirements are set by each graduate program.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Applications will be submitted online via Wizehive, a user-friendly internal funding software, with the access link posted at the Office of Research Internal Funding webpage. Note that each track has a unique link.

Application Materials

The application will consist of the sections below. Please remember that an intellectually diverse group of reviewers from physical sciences and engineering disciplines will be reading the proposal. Therefore, please write the proposal such that everyone can understand it. Note – we recommend you prepare your proposal, following the specific word counts, within a separate document and then copy and paste the requested information (as appropriate) into the text boxes on the portal.

Proposal Contents:

- Project Title (30 words)
- Statement of Problem (200 words)
- Background and Significance (500 words)
- Specific Aims, Research Questions or Hypotheses (250 words)
- Research Strategy or Plan (500 words)
- New Area of Research (250 words)
- Figures Upload (PDF upload – as necessary)
- Timeline (500 words)
- References (PDF upload)
- List presentations in the following areas made while a member of a UC graduate program (PhD or masters). Provide names of all authors in the order shown in the publication, titles, names of conference or meeting, locations, and dates.
    - Peer-Reviewed Publications that you are the First Author while in the UC graduate program (provide Digital Object Identifier's DOI addresses), exclude seminars/conferences. Providing wrong or inaccurate information will result in disqualification.
    - Peer-Reviewed Publications not first author (provide Digital Object Identifier's DOI addresses), exclude seminars/conferences.
    - Non-Peer Reviewed Publications (DOI's included)
    - Technical Papers
    - Oral Presentations given by you at a major symposium, conference, or seminar.
    - Posters presented by you at a major symposium, conference, or seminar.
    - Oral Presentations given by you at a University of Cincinnati conference or seminar
    - Posters presented by you at a University of Cincinnati conference or seminar.
- Faculty Collaborator's Role (200 words)

All applicants are required to include the following additional documentation:

- Biographical Sketch: Maximum of 4 pages, double-spaced, with 12 pt font and 1-inch minimum margins. (PDF upload)
- Education and Career Objectives (250 words)
- For students in their 2nd year and beyond at UC, a copy of unofficial UC transcript or degree audit is required. For 1st year graduate students, a copy of unofficial undergraduate transcripts is required. **Grades obtained in your graduate courses at UC are a third of your presentation score. If you have not completed your first-year courses in your degree program, you should strongly consider applying the following year.** (PDF upload)
- **Faculty Collaboration Agreement** (PDF upload)
- **Program Director's Approval** (PDF upload)
- Research Protocol Compliance Check-In (Information will be provided within Wizehive)
- Budget Request and Justification for the Research Support Costs, not to exceed $1,000 (Information will be provided within Wizehive)

Budget

Research support costs must adhere to the **Office of Research Budget Guidelines**. Research costs will generally fall into one of the four categories below. Please be prepared to justify the request for such research support costs when submitting your budget in Wizehive.

- Equipment (describe the specific equipment to be purchased, the reason it is required for this project, and document that such equipment does not already exist at UC or is not available for your use)
- Supplies including any research participant costs (describe, in general terms, the supplies required for this project)
- Travel (describe any travel directly related to the research project)
- Other Expenses (describe any other research expenses that cannot be captured in the categories above)

Review & Selection Process

Each URC proposal will be reviewed by a team of faculty reviewers. The review process will be managed such that no conflict-of-interest issues arise. The review panel recommendations for funding will be assessed by the Office of Research before recommendations for awards are given to the Vice President for Research for final approval and funds distribution.

Official Review Criteria

- Research Project Merit
  - Would the project help the student learn? Is the project innovative and of theoretical and/or practical significance?
  - Are the goals clearly articulated? Are the project design and analysis appropriately addressed?
  - Can feasible progress be made on the project during the summer funding period?
- Academic and Research Achievements
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal

Awards

The stipend is reserved for summer semester 2027 activities. The Office of Research will contact awardees' College business offices to facilitate transfer of funds upon awardees' acceptance of awards.

Award Conditions

- Award duration is for the summer semester 2027.
- No other UC student worker or GA/TA/RA employment *outside of the home graduate program of the student* is allowed during the award period. However, graduate programs/faculty collaborators may supplement the stipend via other research or teaching funds to match program norms.
- Please note: Neither indirect costs nor graduate student tuition can be charged to this award.
- Allowable research support costs are only those listed in the proposal budget that were approved by the review panel.
- Requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted to Research@uc.edu and will only be granted in extenuating circumstances, which must be justified in writing. Applicants should make any request *no later than July 23, 2027* to provide sufficient time for evaluation and determination of a no-cost extension approval.
- A financial report will be provided from the student's department at the end of the award period. Expenses at the conclusion of the project will be reviewed and all unused funds will be returned to the Office of Research for reallocation toward future awards.
- All work resulting from this research effort must acknowledge "University of Cincinnati, Office of Research – URC Graduate Student Stipend and Research Cost Program for Faculty—Student Collaboration" as project funding source.
- The faculty collaborators of student awardees agree to serve as a reviewer for Office of Research funding competitions for one year following their acceptance of funds.

QUESTIONS? Contact Research@uc.edu