

The University of Cincinnati Office of Research
Internal Funding Opportunity Announcement

University Research Council (URC) Faculty Research Pivot Grants

Funding is available to support up to five \$20,000 grants.

The Office of Research is pleased to share the AY23-24 FOA for the URC Faculty Research Pivot 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 Research Pivot Grants are targeted to mid-career and beyond faculty who are proposing transformative *new* ideas and directions for their research, scholarship and creative activities. This program is for individual faculty and may be discipline-focused or interdisciplinary in nature. All areas of research, scholarship and creative activities across UC are eligible.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Up to 10 finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and agree to a 15-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

Grants: All grants will be for \$20,000 and for a period of 24 months. Funds are expected to support the proposed activities and can include one-semester of course relief, as necessary to accomplish the goals of the project. Budgets will only be required from grantees and will be created in collaboration with the Office of Research. Up to five grants will be supported by this program.

Unit Head Support: All applicants must provide a letter of support from their unit head documenting the proposed activities are a departure from the current, the availability of resources to conduct the proposed activities, and any necessary unit-level support for the faculty member should they be selected for a grant.

KEY DATES

FOA released January 11, 2024

LOI Deadline: March 6, 2024, 5:00 pm Eastern

Finalists Notified: Week of March 25, 2024 (anticipated)

Final Proposal Deadline: May 7, 2024, 5:00 pm Eastern (for finalists only)

Finalist Presentations: Week of May 20, 2024 (anticipated)

Grantees Announced: Week of June 17, 2024 (anticipated)

Grant Project Period: August 2024 – July 2026

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.

Recognizing there has been a significant gap in internal programs that are dedicated to helping mid-

career and beyond faculty establish a new and unique line of research, scholarship or creative activities, the URC Faculty Research Pivot Program has been established as part of UC's [Research2030](#) strategic plan for research. Our established faculty have accumulated much experience and knowledge, and this award is geared towards helping them identify solutions to the complex questions, problems and challenges facing society that would be a departure from what they have done previously in their career.

The goals of the URC Faculty Research Pivot program are to 1) Support our mid-career and beyond researchers, scholars and creatives; 2) Drive excellence in all areas of research, scholarship and creative endeavors; and 3) Advance high-potential, high-impact activities that are inclusive, impactful, and innovative to the next level.

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

Grantees will be selected based on the quality, novelty, and impact of their newly proposed research, scholarship, and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge creation and improved societal outcomes. URC Faculty Research Pivot Grants provide funds that can be used to achieve the desired outcomes and goals of the proposed activity.

Eligibility

- *This is a mid-career and beyond program*; therefore, UC faculty members must be tenure-track faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.
- 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. Collaborators may be part of the research/creative activities as deemed necessary by the primary applicant.
- Except for prior recipients of URC Pivot Grants, otherwise eligible faculty who received past URC or Office of Research funding may apply. Such 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 by a former award. Note: such previous awardees will be required to provide data/evidence that the previously funded project was successful and impactful if invited to the finalist stage for this program.
- Otherwise eligible faculty with external funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded, and applicants should clearly delineate the relationship between on-going, funded work and that being proposed here.

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, and proposal title within the Wizehive application portal prior to uploading the required pdf files.

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?
 - YOUR PIVOT: *How is this a new line of inquiry and research?*
 - 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)
4. Letter of Support from Unit Head (2 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 and clear delineation as to why and how this would be a new area of research and scholarship.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

Finalist Selection & Review Process: Each URC Faculty Research Pivot Grant LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by and including the VP for Research. No more than ten (10) 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 Research Pivot Grantees will be required to serve as reviewers for future URC Faculty Research Pivot Program or other Office of Research Internal Funding opportunities.

QUESTIONS? Email research@uc.edu