UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST.LOUIS
OFFICE OF RESEARCH, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

UMSL RESEARCH AWARDS
Request for Proposals

Applications Due Feb 13, 2026, 5:00 PM

Purpose
- UMSL Research Award provides seed funding to encourage faculty to develop innovative research projects and creative works that will lead to external funding.

Eligibility
- Full-time, benefit eligible faculty.
- Non-tenure track faculty must hold a terminal degree and have a research component to their appointment; Postdoctoral scholars are **NOT** eligible.
- Faculty funded in previous year (2025) by internal research awards (UMSL Research or Mid-Career) are **NOT** eligible to apply.
- Faculty previously awarded internal funds must be up to date with reports per award terms and conditions.
- PIs and Co-Is are limited to one application per cycle.
- Any recipient who receives external or internal funding for essentially the same project must return the UMSL Research Award funds to the extent of the overlap.

Award Information
Award Amount: $1,000 to $20,000
Project Period: June 1, 2026-May 31, 2027
- Under certain conditions and with justification, exceptions to these dates may be requested.
- Funds must be spent within one year. In limited situations, a 6-month extension may be granted

Graduate Students: Cannot be supported on a research award if they simultaneously hold a Fellowship.
Summer Salary: Preference will be given to junior faculty. Generally, tenured faculty will **NOT** be awarded summer salary support.

Application Requirements

InfoReady: Complete and Submit Your Application in **InfoReady**

Reminder: Avoid jargon. Use clear, lay language written for reviewers who will be outside of your discipline. Proposals that are easily understood have higher success rates.

Application Components:

1). Proposal Summary: Complete in InfoReady (Maximum of 300 words, single spaced)
- Provide an overview of the proposed research project or creative work. Include the following headings/sections: objectives, significance, and expected results.

2). Proposal Narrative (Maximum of 5 pages, single-spaced, font size of 11 or larger, pages numbered consecutively) - Upload to InfoReady

<u>**Include the following headings and content:**</u>

Objectives
- Cleary state the research aims, research questions or objectives of the proposed project.

Background and Significance
- Briefly help the reviewers understand the current state of knowledge in the field briefly discussing previous work by you and others.
- Identify gaps in the existing research that the proposed research will fill.
- For creative works, describe what is novel and creative about the proposed project.

Methods/Approach
- Describe the methods or how you will conduct the proposed research or creative work.
- Provide enough detail for reviewers to understand what you propose to do and to evaluate whether the proposed work is feasible in a one-year period.
- Discuss potential challenges and how you will address.
- Include a project timeline including start date.
- Define roles of all personnel and partners involved including student research assistants.

Expected Outcomes
- Discuss how UMSL Research Award funding will advance your research career and what you will be able to accomplish during the project period.
- Describe expected outcomes such as preliminary data, manuscripts, grant proposals, book chapters, performances, exhibits, partnerships etc.
- For manuscripts, provide the anticipated number of publications and the names of target journals.

External Funding Strategy
- Discuss how the proposed research or creative work will lead to external funding.
- Discuss your strategy for obtaining external funding including the specific funding agency and mechanism you plan to apply to and the target application date(s)
- Describe how the proposed research aligns with the mission of the identified funding agency.

3) **Budget Spreadsheet**
- Complete the budget template.
- Label the spreadsheet file name with your last name (Example: Smith_UMSLReasearchAward_Budget)
- Provide a realistic estimate of the costs needed to conduct the proposed project.
- When budgeting for GRAs use department rates (Check with your College Business Manager or Dept administrator)

4) **Budget Justification (1 page)** For each budget item requested explain why the item is necessary to accomplish the proposed work and how you came up with the amount . The budget justification should follow the same order as the budget spreadsheet.

5) **References Cited**
- Maximum of two single-spaced pages

6) **Biographical Sketch (two-page maximum)**
- Provide a 2-page biographical sketch/cv that includes Education, Professional Appointments, Evidence of Scholarship (relevant refereed journal articles, book chapters, books, etc.), and Significant Accomplishments, Honors, Awards, and/or Service Contributions

7) **Current and Pending Support**
- List all current and pending research support (internal and external) including Title, Funder, Amount requested, Total Award Amount, Project Period and Role

Submit Your Completed Application in InfoReady
- Review your application carefully.
- Submit your application in the **InfoReady** application portal no later than **5:00 PM on Feb 13, 2026.**
- Make sure the total amount in budget spreadsheet matches the total in the InfoReady summary.

Complete applications will be read and scored by the Spring Research Committee of the UMSL Faculty Senate. The committee will provide a ranked list of applications and funding recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Research based on the quality of the proposals and review scores. The VCR will make the final award decision based on the committee's recommendations and availability of funds.

Clarity and Completeness
- The application is complete and easy to understand by scholars outside of one's area of expertise.

Significance and Intellectual Merit
- The potential for the work to advance the field.
- The extent to which the research addresses a key gap or need or the extent to which the project is creative or novel.

Approach
- Clearly defined aims or project goals and research methods or creative approach including realistic timeline and project roles
- The extent to which the work will produce expected outcomes.
- Reasonable scope for the one-year project period

Potential to Advance PIs Research and Lead to External Funding
- The potential of the work to advance the applicant's research career.
- Potential of the work to lead to external funding and improve the applicant's position to compete for external funding.

Budget
- The applicant provides a strong justification for how the budgeted costs will enable them to carry out the proposed project.