



# Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

## OVCRI Seed Funding for the Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Research at Missouri S&T

### Fall 2024 Request for Proposals

**Due Date: October 7, 2024**

#### Overview

The purpose of this funding is to enable faculty to:

- Initiate their innovative creative work and research programs
- If applicable, provide seed money for preliminary creative work and research leading to external funding from federal agencies, foundations, and donors
- Provide support for faculty beginning a new direction of their creative work and research
- Provide resources for excellent scholarship in fields for which external support is limited.

The following key factors will be considered in the review of projects:

- Quality of the proposed research or creative activity
- Importance and probable impact the proposed work may have on the field
- Potential value for enhancing the stature of the University
- Project design and procedures
- Resources and environment available to carry out the project
- Value for development of the applicant's research potential
- Quality, productivity, and current research/creative work of the applicant

Projects that would not be possible without this internal funding mechanism, and which have significant promise for long term impact, are of particular interest since such projects may generate substantial return on investment over the investigator's career. Proposals from early and mid-career faculty members are particularly encouraged, in part because a modest investment may make a large impact over the course of their careers. New initiatives of senior faculty who are expanding beyond their traditional areas of expertise are also encouraged. All funding, regardless of the rank of the applicant, is competitive.



## Applications

There will be two rounds of funding opportunities, one in the Fall of 2024 and in the Spring of 2025. Applications must be initiated by faculty to fill a specific need for support. Each proposal must have a primary applicant (or principal investigator, PI) responsible for conducting the project and submitting a final report. Collaborative projects may have one or more co-investigators (Co-PIs). PI's may request up to \$20,000 for projects or publication subventions. Proposals may request salaries for personnel who are integrally involved in performing the research or creative activity. Fringe benefits for participants must be calculated at the current university rate. These include:

- Graduate research assistants
- Undergraduate assistants (up to \$3,000 per semester)
- Visiting scholars
- Technicians / special assistants

Small equipment, supplies, costs associated with travel to research sites, and other justified research expenses may be requested.

Teaching replacement costs will be considered when there is a clear justification for the applicant to be released from teaching during some or all the academic year. With this support, recipients of any academic rank will be replaced by a teaching assistant or other qualified instructor in AY2024-2025. Thus, course release can be requested equal to the current rate paid by the university in salary and benefits for a teaching replacement valued at \$7000 plus fringe benefits. Arrangement for teaching replacement must be made with the department chair. Requests exceeding two semesters will not be awarded.

Requests for other types of support will be considered if the request represents a critical need or offers an important opportunity to promote scholarship and creativity. Examples include:

- A special library acquisition might have important implications for a particular faculty's research effort
- A workshop or conference to initiate, discuss or consolidate creative works or research programs
- Travel to visit funding agencies to discuss research concepts

Applicants are encouraged to present and justify only their most critical needs, recognizing that resources are limited in relation to the needs for research support.

Awards are not renewable. This mechanism will not be a source of continuing support for specific projects or facilities.

This funding opportunity will **NOT** provide certain types of support. These include:

- Bridge funding
- Any stipend or summer salary as PI and Co-PI.
- Academic salaries for faculty on 9 or 11-month appointments (includes ranked, non-tenure track faculty whose title includes the word Professor)
- Graduate research assistantship appointments for greater than 50 percent time
- Stipends for graduate students not enrolled at the University during the academic year

- Book publication subventions for non-refereed or commercial presses
- Dissertation preparation costs (copying, typing, binding, etc.)
- Construction and remodeling of facilities, equipment maintenance costs
- Professional dues/memberships/subscriptions
- Secretarial support
- General departmental supplies

No indirect costs (F&A) should be included in the budget.

### **Eligibility**

Tenured, tenure-track, and ranked research non-tenure-track faculty members in the arts, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences are eligible to apply as principal investigators.

A principal investigator may submit only one proposal in any grant cycle and lead only one grant per fiscal year.

Only proposals with outcomes that clearly and primarily focus on arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences will be considered for review.

### **Book Publication Subvention Guidelines**

This funding can be used to provide book publication assistance to faculty in cases where the publisher:

- is a non-commercial press,
- uses a peer-review mechanism for selecting books to publish, and
- stipulates that a subvention is necessary for the book to be published, as in the case where the anticipated sale is too small or too slow to permit timely recovery by the publishers of the initial production expense.

Authors must not suggest the possibility of a publication subvention in their communications with publishers.

The Strategic Investment Program's policy for publication subventions requires that a copy is provided of all peer reviews available and specific terms of the proposed contract between author and publisher, including the subvention required and the terms under which any revenue generated by the sale of the work shall be returned to the author. Scanned copies of the peer reviews and the proposed contract must be appended to the proposal narrative.

The author shall provide a copy of the book for its inspection, which will subsequently be donated to the Missouri S&T library.

### **Requirements**

*Narrative*

The narrative should be brief, yet consistent with critical peer review. The narrative is limited to two pages, excluding the bibliography, budget, and justification. The narrative should include the following items:

- A header section including PI and co-PIs and academic department(s), proposal title, and total funds requested
- A statement of overall and specific objectives
- Significance of the project to research or creative activity in the specific field, and its potential value in enhancing the stature of the University
- Background and rationale
- Project design and procedures proposed to accomplish the objectives
- Plans for future support for this or closely related projects

### *Budget Section and Justification*

A detailed budget and justification must be included in your proposal. This can be a separate sheet and in addition to the proposal summary and narrative.

In addition to the two-page narrative, also provide a description of the available resources, requested budget, and environment that will be used to support the proposed research.

### *Compliance with Oversight Committees*

If your proposal involves human subjects, vertebrate animals, rDNA or biohazards or export controls or select agents, approval must be obtained from the oversight committees on your campus. Verification must be received in the designated campus official's office prior to setting up an account.

### **Proposal Evaluation**

The proposals will be evaluated by a panel of three to five senior faculty members selected from the Departments of Arts, Languages, and Philosophy; English and Technical Communication; History and Political Science; and Psychological Sciences. The panel will use the criteria detailed above as key factors to evaluate the proposals.

### **Full Proposal Due Date and Outcome Assessment**

The deadline for applications is Monday, **October 7, 2024**. Applications should be sent to the Office of Research and Innovation at [VCRI@mst.edu](mailto:VCRI@mst.edu).

Decisions on funding will be announced early November 2024.

The allocated funding should be spent by August 31, 2025.