

UNIVERSITY CENTRAL RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCING THE 2015-2016 COMPETITION

The University Central Research Scholar Grant (RSG) Program encourages original, innovative scholarship by faculty working on research for which the opportunities for extramural funding are limited. Awards are need based. *Faculty members conducting research for which appreciable extramural financial support is available through NSF, NIH, NASA, the Departments of Defense and Education and similar agencies should instead explore the opportunities provided by the University Central Discovery Grant (DG) Program.*

The RSG Program invites applications from faculty proposing research of the highest quality. The RSG Program seeks particularly to encourage humanistic research (as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities¹), and humanistic or humanities-led cross-disciplinary inquiry, but the scope of the program is not limited exclusively to research in or associated with the humanities.

Eligibility Requirements

- Full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members in University Central, including faculty holding equivalent ranks in the Blair School, are eligible to submit proposals. For 2015-16, this includes full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members in Biochemistry, Cancer Biology, Cell & Developmental Biology, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics, and Pharmacology.
- Faculty may submit up to two proposals, with no more than one proposal in any single category (see descriptions below).
- Proposals that include support for research involving graduate students are welcomed.
- Faculty currently serving as PI or co-investigator on active Research Scholar Grant awards are not eligible to submit another RSG proposal (as PI or co-investigator) until their current RSG award(s) are completed and all reporting requirements have been met.

Additional Requirements

- Budgets for all RSG proposals must follow the budget template listed on the proposal cover page. Proposals that include requests for salary should use current year salary, and should **not** include fringe benefit rates.
- Awards are based partly on need. As a result, each participating faculty member must disclose both existing external funding (for the most recent five years) and institutional resources available in the form of start-up funds or other discretionary funds. All institutional research-support funds must be included, including endowed-chair funds, annual allocations, and other such sources.
- For all awards, Year 1 progress reports will be due by 5 p.m. on July 15. For 2-year awards, Year 2 funding may be contingent on submission of the Year 1 reports.

Categories of Support

Funds can be used to support faculty salaries in the Research Scholar Fellowship (B, below), Summer Stipend (C), and Undergraduate Research Supervision Grant (E) categories, but not in the other two categories. Awards in all categories are normally made for one year, but the program will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for two consecutive years of funding in the Faculty Development Grant category. Two-year awards will be made only in the most

¹ The NEH definition is available at <http://www.neh.gov/about>.

compelling cases. The categories are described briefly below, with additional information in the “Outline for Proposals” that follows.

A. **Faculty Development Grants** provide funds for an individual investigator (or possibly more than one faculty member in the same department or field) to carry out research, including disciplinary research. The program will consider requests for support of traditional research of the highest quality and requests for financial assistance with the publication of an important book. Faculty members are expected to propose work for which full support from the school or college is not already in place or available, although the program will consider requests for shared program-and-school support. There is no funding limit in this category, and awards normally are for one year.

B. **Research Scholar Fellowships** provide partial salary support for a second semester of leave. To be eligible for an award, a faculty member must have been granted two semesters of approved leave, one semester of which must be a leave with full pay. These two semesters of leave are expected to be contiguous. Awards for the second semester of leave may not exceed one-third of a faculty member's annual base salary², up to a maximum of \$30,000. Use your current academic year salary when submitting your proposal. The Fellowship will also cover fringe benefits for the salary awarded, if not covered by other sources, but do **not** include fringe benefits in your budget or proposal.

Important note: Priority consideration for awards will be given to individuals who apply *in addition* for extramural support for the second semester of leave. If external support for the second semester of leave is awarded to the recipient of a Research Scholar Fellowship, the RSG program will provide salary support with the limitation that the faculty member cannot receive from all combined sources more than one-half of his/her annual base salary. However, the recipient of that external support will be eligible, upon request, for an additional grant of up to \$5,000 for direct (non-salary) support of research expenses as justified by the faculty member's work during that second-semester leave. Applications are strengthened considerably if the faculty member defines and proposes a high-quality product that will result from a year-long leave.

C. **Summer Stipends** are awarded on a competitive basis to faculty who propose summer research of exceptional quality or promise. Funds may be used for research expenses or for salary payments, or a combination; proposals must detail clearly which is being requested, and why. All Summer Stipend awards are for a single year only, in the amount of \$6,000. If the funds are paid as salary, fringe benefits for this amount are added in addition to the award.

D. **Lectures and/or Symposia.** The Research Scholar Grants Program emphasizes study, investigation and scholarship, but a limited number of lectures and/or symposia will be sponsored by the program when the proposals make convincing cases for positive impacts on the intellectual environment at Vanderbilt and on research conducted by the faculty.

E. **Undergraduate Research Supervision Grants** encourage faculty members eligible for RSG Program support to work with undergraduates, under the umbrella of the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSRP). Details about the VUSRP can be

² Annual base salary is the amount Vanderbilt pays for services rendered during the nine-month academic year.

found at <http://vusrp.vanderbilt.edu/>. To receive an award, an eligible faculty member must submit a URSG application by the deadline and must serve as the named faculty sponsor for a successful VUSRP application.

How To Apply

Applications and instructions for the 2015-2016 competitions can be found on the Research website under Funding Opportunities (<http://research.vanderbilt.edu/policy/internal-grants/>). Proposals are due by **5 p.m., Monday, February 8** and must be submitted as a single PDF document in conjunction with a REDCap application. A link to the REDCap application will be posted to the site in the coming weeks.

Award results are typically announced in early May - the date may vary depending on the number of proposals submitted. Funds are available soon after awards are announced.

Questions about this program may be directed to Heidi Basgall Favorite (2-6067, heidi.basgall@vanderbilt.edu) or Elizabeth Rapisarda (2-3684, elizabeth.rapisarda@vanderbilt.edu).

UNIVERSITY CENTRAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS GRANT (RSG) PROGRAM
2015-2015
Proposal Cover Page

Project Title: _____

Faculty Participating in the Research (For research involving several faculty members, list *first* the faculty member who will lead the collaboration):

Name	Dept./School	Academic Rank	Campus Phone	e-mail Address

Campus Mailing Address for PI/PD: _____

Application Category: (Check one)

- Faculty Development Grant _____ Due Monday, 2/8, 5 p.m.
- Research Scholar Fellowship _____ Due Monday, 2/8, 5 p.m.
- Summer Stipends _____ Due Monday, 2/8, 5 p.m.
- Lectures and Symposia _____ Due Monday, 2/8, 5 p.m.
- Undergraduate Research Supervision Grant _____ Due Monday, 3/14, 5 p.m.

Requested Project Period: From _____ to _____

Proposed Budget:

Faculty Salary (if applicable) – do not include fringe benefits	\$ _____
Graduate Student Support	\$ _____
Other Salary (if applicable)	\$ _____
Travel Expenses	\$ _____
Living Expenses (separate from travel costs)	\$ _____
Other Expenses (to be detailed in the proposal)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Signature of Principal Investigator _____

Date _____

OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, RESEARCH SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIPS,
SUMMER STIPENDS, AND LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA

1. **Proposed Research – three-page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced, one inch margins.** This section should be written for an individual who is not an expert in the field. Describe the proposed research and include any supporting data, as appropriate. Define the specific aims or goals of the research, describe the methods to be used to accomplish your goals, and state clearly the significance of the research.
2. **Rationale – one page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced.** Please describe how the proposed research meets the goals of this category of the program. How will the proposed project further your development as a research scholar? Will the project make you more competitive for extramural support?

For the *Research Scholar Fellowship*: What will a second semester of leave (with fellowship) permit you to accomplish that a single semester's leave would not? What is the product of the proposed year's leave?

For *Lectures and Symposia*: Describe the lecture series or symposium you are proposing, presenting in some detail the subject matter and listing possible participants. What is the target audience? Describe the positive impact of the proposed program on research by Vanderbilt faculty.

3. **Internal/External Funding – one-page maximum.** Disclose both existing external funding (for the most recent five years) and institutional resources available in the form of start-up funds or other discretionary research funds. All institutional research-support funds must be included, including endowed-chair funds, annual allocations, and other such sources. Please note any restrictions or obligations governing the use of such funds.
4. **Budget – two-page maximum.** Provide a summary of the proposed expenditures and justification, beginning with the chart on the proposal cover page; show all major funding categories and expected allocation of funds. Requests for two years of funding must include a strong justification for the extended funding period.

For the *Research Scholar Fellowship*: State the level of fellowship stipend you are requesting. This cannot exceed one-third of your annual base salary, up to a maximum of \$30,000. If you receive an RSF award, our office will coordinate with the appropriate dean's office on salary information and fringe benefit rates. If you have applied for external support for a second semester of leave, please indicate from what program, the amount of support you hope to receive, and the date you expect to receive a decision.

If you are awarded a Research Scholar Fellowship as well as external funding for a second semester, and you plan to request a grant for direct support of research from the RSG Program, include a tentative budget (up to \$5,000) indicating the expenditure amounts by category.

5. **Biographical Information – two-page maximum per faculty member listed on the cover page, 12-pt. font.** Please provide a two-page biographical summary for each participating faculty member, including at least the following:
- a. Education (degrees, years, and institutions)
 - b. Postdoctoral positions (years and locations)
 - c. Academic, research or professional positions held (years, institutions, titles)
 - d. Distinctions such as Awards, Honors, Fellowships
 - e. Titles and related information for publications or other scholarly work including monographs, edited volumes, book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, exhibits, performances, etc.
 - f. Evidence of extramural support you have received to support your research.

Other items may be included, as appropriate, but within the two-page limit.

6. Leave Approval – for the Research Scholar Fellowship proposals only. Attach a statement from the relevant dean's office confirming you have requested two semesters of approved leave, one semester of which is leave with full pay.

OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION GRANTS (URSG)

This program is intended to encourage faculty in RSG-related fields to work with undergraduates, under the umbrella of the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSRP) during the coming summer. Eligible faculty who have never before served as faculty sponsor of a VUSRP student project may apply for a URSG research-support award of \$5,000. Eligible faculty who *have* previously served as faculty sponsor of a VUSRP student may apply for a URSG research award of \$2,000.

Faculty interested in applying for a research award will need to identify an interested undergraduate to sponsor, work with that student to develop a competitive summer research project, and then, if the student's VUSRP application is successful, supervise that project during the coming summer. Each faculty member may apply for only one URSG award in a given summer. Receiving a URSG award is contingent upon the student winning a VUSRP award. To apply for URSG funding, an eligible faculty member must submit the following by the deadline:

1. An narrative (three-page maximum, single-spaced, 12-pt. font) that (a) states whether or not the faculty member has had previous experience supervising one or more VUSRP student projects, (b) describes the faculty member's perspective on the content and significance of the proposed student project, and (c) describes how the faculty member plans to go about supervising this project if the student's VUSRP proposal is successful.
2. A copy of the VUSRP application prepared and submitted (by the student) under the faculty member's supervision. Details about the VUSRP can be found at <http://vusrp.vanderbilt.edu/>.
3. A copy of the faculty member's two-page biographical sketch, following the format listed in item 5 of the Outline for Proposals, above.