

The University of Cincinnati's Graduate College and the  
Office of the Vice President for Research sponsored

**University Research Council (URC) Graduate Student Stipend and Research  
Cost Program for Faculty—Student Collaboration Request for Proposals  
(RFP) in the area of  
LIFE SCIENCES**

*Funding is available to support up to 6 awards in the Life Sciences.*

The Graduate College and the Office of the Vice President for Research are pleased to announce the 2023-2024 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 in the Teacher-Scholar model of graduate education, this URC program provides summer stipend support to outstanding graduate students plus funds to support related research costs working in collaboration with a UC faculty member. A total award of \$7,500 is available to each applicant. Stipend support of \$6,500 will be provided to the graduate student plus up to \$1,000 for research costs payable to the department.

**KEY DATES**

RFP released August 23, 2023

Proposal Deadline: November 07, 2023, 5:00 pm Eastern

Awardees Announced: Week of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (anticipated)

Fellowship Project Period: Summer 2024 semester (May 6, 2024 – August 3, 2024)

**Eligibility**

- Eligible applicants include UC graduate students who will still be enrolled by December of the following academic year (December 2024).
- Eligible students must be able to accept the stipend for Summer Semester 2024.
- Eligible students must have accrued less than 174 credit hours as of Fall Semester 2023.
- Eligible Faculty Collaborators are UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment; those who hold a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC and VA) are eligible to contribute effort; adjuncts and visiting professors are not eligible.

**Awards**

The stipend is reserved for Summer Semester 2024 activities (May 6<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>). The Office of Research Director of Business Affairs will contact awardees' College business managers to facilitate transfer of funds upon awardees' acceptance of awards.

## **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 URC 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.

## **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 will be shared separately by the Office of Research. Applications require approval of the graduate program through completion of the “Graduate Program Director Form”, which certifies 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 linked posted at <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

## **Application Materials**

The application should consist of the sections below, with headings and sub-headings to simplify ease of review. Please remember that a diverse group of reviewers from life science disciplines will be reading the proposal. Therefore, please write the proposal such that everyone can understand it. You may include figures in your Research Plan, with each figure contributing 150 words to the overall word limit.

1. Project Title (30-word max)
2. Abstract (250-word max)
3. Research Plan (1750-word max)
  - a. Background and Significance
  - b. Hypothesis
  - c. Specific Aims
  - d. Experimental Approach/Research Strategy
  - e. Timeline
4. References cited (no word limit)
5. New Area of Research (250-word max)
6. Faculty Collaborator’s Role (200-word max)
7. Education and Career Objectives (250-word max)

*The application materials above will be submitted as a single pdf file with 12pt. font and a minimum of one-inch margins.*

All applicants are required to include the following additional documentation:

- Biographical Sketch: NIH, NSF, DoD or other standard format should be used. Maximum of 4 pages, double-spaced, with 12 pt font and 1-inch minimum margins. (PDF upload)
- For students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year and beyond at UC, a copy of unofficial UC transcript or degree audit is required. For 1<sup>st</sup> year graduate students, a copy of unofficial undergraduate transcripts is required. (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 Costs, not to exceed \$1000 (Information will be provided within Wizehive)

#### 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

#### Award Conditions

- **Awardee stipend amounts will be \$6,500 for the summer semester.** 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 to match program norms.
- Award duration is for the summer semester (May 6<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- All work resulting from this research effort must acknowledge “University of Cincinnati, Office of the Vice President for Research – URC Graduate Student Stipend and Research Cost Program for Faculty—Student Collaboration” as project funding source.
- Allowable research program costs are those listed in the proposal budget that were approved by the review panel. Such costs will typically be those associated with successful completion of a research or scholarly project and may include equipment, supplies or services. Travel to meetings or conferences is not supported. Travel that is essential to successful completion of the aims of the project is permitted.
- Please note: Neither indirect costs nor graduate student tuition can be charged to this URC award.
- A financial report will be provided from the PI’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.
- No-cost extensions for the allocated research program costs are not allowed.
- Requests for no-cost extensions for unused stipend amounts are allowable. They should be submitted to [Research@uc.edu](mailto:Research@uc.edu) and will only be granted in cases where the entire amount of the approved summer stipend could not be used due to extenuating circumstances, which must be justified in writing. Applicants should make any request *no later than July 19, 2024* to provide sufficient time for evaluation and determination of a no-cost extension approval.
- It is expected that the faculty collaborators of student awardees will participate in other activities such as proposal reviews for this program or other internal funding opportunities out of the Office of Research in the future.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact [Research@uc.edu](mailto:Research@uc.edu)