

WILLIAM & MARY
College of Arts & Sciences

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

2026-2027 Research "Seed" Grants

Eligibility: Arts & Sciences graduate students currently conducting research and in good academic standing are eligible to apply for a “seed grant” of up to \$350. All applicants to the Research "Seed" Grants must have identified the research area in which they propose to write their dissertation or thesis and must have identified a W&M faculty member who has agreed to direct their research. Students may apply to more than one funding cycle per academic year.

Eligible expenses: Examples of eligible expenses include the procurement of equipment and supplies in support of research, travel expenses related to research, and fees for the digitization of materials where archive access is restricted. Grant recipients must work with the appropriate staff member in their graduate program to ensure that anticipated expenses and procurement requests can be covered under and adhere to W&M's policies.

Ineligible expenses: personnel costs (e.g., salaries and/or benefits), travel for conferences or meetings, subscriptions to journals or periodicals, and membership dues to professional organizations.

Review process: All applications per award cycle will be evaluated and ranked. Recommendations for funding will be forwarded to the Vice Dean of Research and Graduate Studies for approval.

In making selections, the quality, feasibility, and maturity of the research proposed will be considered. A strong proposal is written for a general audience and does not presume a familiarity with the jargon of the field. The total number of awards made and level of funding for each award will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the amounts requested.

Requirements for submission:

The [Research Grant Application form is an online Qualtrics form](#). On it, you will be asked to provide:

- An application narrative of no more than 250 words explaining the research and its contribution to the applicant's progress toward degree completion.
- A budget accompanied by a budget narrative of no more than 200 words justifying the budget items and listing any other funding applied for and/or anticipated, or any cost-sharing measures undertaken.
- A Research Grant Institutional Compliance Form (.pdf included below), which you will be asked to upload to the online form. Be sure the form is filled out completely and has been signed before uploading to the GSAB Seed Grant Application online.

Requirements upon approval and acceptance: Decisions and notifications will be made as quickly as possible following each of the deadlines listed below. Awarded funds will be transferred to the student's graduate program. Students must consult their graduate program regarding policies for the procurement of any supplies and equipment. All property, equipment, and unused supplies remain the property of Arts & Sciences, William & Mary. Following the implementation of your funded research, you may receive a prompt asking you to supply the OGS with a very brief report of your activities.

Deadlines:

- Fall Research Cycle: **October 1, 2026**, for research conducted September 1 to December 31, 2026.
- Spring Research Cycle: **December 1, 2026**, for research conducted January 1 to May 31, 2027.
- Summer Research Cycle: **April 1, 2027**, for research conducted June 1 to August 31, 2027.

Questions? Contact the Office of Graduate Studies via email: dean-gsr@wm.edu

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