

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
W&M SEED FUNDING RESEARCH GRANTS
(FOR FY 2026-27)

DEADLINE: 5:00 PM EST, Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**Administered by the William & Mary Faculty Research Committee and
the Office of the Vice Provost for Research**

*Questions about this application should be directed to the Chair of the Faculty Research Committee,
Nathan Kidwell (nmkidwell@wm.edu).*

The W&M Seed Funding Research Grant program promotes an increase in total external research funding at W&M. The program is also designed to help W&M faculty and staff members from all disciplines to establish self-sustaining, independent funding for research. A requirement for awardees in this program is that the proposed work must lead to submission of one or more proposals for follow-on external funding to maintain sustained future efforts.

Seed funding may supplement start-up funds or other funding streams already established by proposers. The seed funds can be used for many purposes that will lead to future external funding, including to gather additional data, acquire necessary equipment, master a needed skill, or access special materials. To maintain continuing eligibility for this program, awardees must submit at least one proposal to an outside agency, foundation, or corporation within 18 months of award of seed funding. This follow-on external proposal submission may be a new proposal for lasting 1-5 years at \$150k/yr. Alternatively, the proposal may be for a multi-year renewal of a current, existing award where the new yearly funding level exceeds the existing yearly funding level by at least \$100k/year. Meeting these objectives may require expanding the number of co-investigators or students engaged in the work. We encourage applications that combine the efforts of faculty from two or more departments or schools.

Program Scale: We expect to award 1-2 grants totaling \$50K. Notification of award and funds availability in early April 2026. The funding should be used between May 15, 2026 and August 31, 2027.

Who May Apply: Any research-active W&M faculty or staff member who is in good standing and authorized by their unit manager (Chair, Director, Dean, VPR or their delegates) to conduct independent research. Eligibility will be confirmed by the Vice Provost for Research's office in consultation with school/college deans prior to proposal review. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Vice Provost for Research's office. This opportunity is not available to graduate students, postdocs, visiting faculty, or short-term appointees. Each applicant can participate in only one submission.

How to Submit: Forthcoming

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated by the Faculty Research Committee and must address the following items:

- The proposal should clearly state its objectives. Because the application will be read by colleagues who are not experts in the applicant's field, the application should describe the project and its methodology in a way understandable to non-experts in the discipline.

- The proposal should describe how the objectives will be achieved, pointing out what has been done in the field or what is usually done, specify what is new in the proposed approach, and explain why that increases the chances for success and the impact on the proposed fields of work.
- The proposal should discuss its potential impact. Impact is interpreted broadly, and could include the participation of students, community engagement, academic or disciplinary impact, or other impacts as appropriate to the work.
- The proposal should identify one or more potential external funders for at least one subsequent proposal that builds upon the work of the seed proposal and describe why, if the work succeeds, those external funders will be more likely to fund the subsequent proposal.

Conditions and Expectations for Seed Funding Grants Program

1. Applications must be complete to be considered.
2. Grants are made with the expectation that the recipient will remain employed by W&M. A recipient who resigns from W&M (or is not retained for other reasons) will be required to relinquish the grant and any unexpended portion thereof.
3. Grants are made with the expectation that the recipient will perform the work within the proposed period. Other supported research, or paid or unpaid teaching, may also be done by the recipient during the period in which this grant is received, so long as other work is adjusted to meet the obligations of the research grant.
4. Recipients of the W&M Seed Grant should acknowledge the support of W&M in all subsequent publications arising from funded research.
5. By September 30, 2027, W&M Seed Grant recipients must provide a 1–2-page summary report presenting the funded research results. The report should include the status of the proposed work and note any significant changes from the initial proposal. The PI shall submit copies of this final report by email to the Vice Provost of Research, with their unit lead/department chair copied. *Failure to submit this report promptly may cause the recipient to be ineligible for future internal grants.*

**APPLICATION FOR W&M SEED FUNDING RESEARCH GRANT
(FOR FY 2026-27)**

DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**Administered by the William & Mary Faculty Research Committee and
the Office of the Vice Provost for Research**

Application Instructions

The applicant should read the W&M Seed Funding Research Grant Call for Proposals before completing the application.

Please complete items 1-9 of the application. The research description must address the Evaluation Criteria on pages 1-2 of the Call for Proposals. The research description should include a high-level budget (e.g. \$2,500 UG wages; \$2,500 summer salary).

The research description should not exceed 1500 words, be single-spaced and double-spaced between paragraphs, have a minimum of one-inch margins, and use at least a 12-point font.

Please put references/figures at the end of the document and include a list of prior proposals (source, title, amount, and year) that are relevant to the proposed work. If applicable, please include a statement of current and pending support for the proposed work. These items do not count against the 1500 word limit.

Please include a short-form, 2-page CV for each investigator.

Application Checklist

	Application Information (1-10)
	Research Description (up to 1500 words)
	Appendix: References cited and any figures
	Appendix: List of current and pending support for this work
	Appendix: Prior proposals

Applicant Information

Date: _____

1. Name(s) of all Faculty Investigators:

Investigator 1: _____ Banner ID required: _____

Investigator 2: _____ Banner ID required: _____

Investigator 3: _____ Banner ID required: _____

Investigator 4: _____ Banner ID required: _____

2. Position(s) of all Faculty Investigators:

Position 1: _____
Title Department/School

Position 2: _____
Title Department/School

Position 3: _____
Title Department/School

Position 4: _____
Title Department/School

3. Project Title:

Title

4. Suggested Reviewers. Name at least three experts whom the Faculty Research Committee can query for input or ask for a full formal review of your proposal *if needed*. List William & Mary reviewers wherever possible.

Reviewer 1 name	Title/Department/Institution	Email
-----------------	------------------------------	-------

Reviewer 2 name	Title/Department/Institution	Email
-----------------	------------------------------	-------

Reviewer 3 name	Title/Department/Institution	Email
-----------------	------------------------------	-------

5. External Funding Source. Which external program does your seed funding target for proposal submission within 18 months of receipt of internal funding?

6. Authorizing Signature/Date: (chair, director, dean, or VPR) My signature confirms that the applicant is in good standing at W&M and has been authorized to conduct independent research.

Print	Signature	Date
-------	-----------	------

Institutional Compliance: If you will need to submit a protocol to the IRB, IACUC, or IBC, those protocols must be submitted and receive approval prior to the distribution of funding.

7. Will this project engage in human subjects research? See the [Institutional Review Board](#).
8. Will this project use live vertebrate animals? See the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#).
9. Will this project use any (a) recombinant DNA molecules (including transgenic animals or the transfection of cell lines), (b) infectious agents, (c) human tissue or body fluids (including saliva, urine, blood, semen, or primary human cell cultures), or (d) wild-caught or random source animals or animal tissue (for anyone employing animals that may carry zoonotic disease)? See the [Institutional Biosafety Committee](#).
10. Will this proposal involve research with radioactive material? See the [Institutional Radiation Safety Committee](#).

Research Description (maximum 1500 words)