

GUR

GENERAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH GRANTS



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
RESEARCH OFFICE

GUR (2025-2026)

DEADLINES:

LETTER OF INTENT: January 23, 2026; Full Proposal: February 25, 2026

Please note that submission and award processes have changed. Specifically, a PeopleSoft proposal is not needed for proposal submission. A PeopleSoft submission is only required for awarded proposals (instructions included in the Appendix).

ABOUT GUR

The main objective of the **General University Research (GUR) grant** program is to assist full-time UD faculty with seed funding towards research or creative projects that will grow and sustain their scholarly development through future extramural sponsorship. The program is open to all professorial ranks; however, preference is given to early career faculty. These merit-based grants are administered by the Vice President for Research, Scholarship, and Innovation, who is advised by the Research Committee of the Faculty Senate. The Research Committee of the Faculty Senate recommends allocation of the funds available for the year, evaluates applications, and confirms those to be supported. Proposals involving interdisciplinary research, scholarship, or creative projects are especially encouraged.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All full-time faculty members are eligible and encouraged to apply for GUR grants. Preference will be given to faculty who have not received awards previously, however, there is no restriction on the number of awards an individual may receive over the years. Applicants who received a GUR grant starting between June 1, 2023 and June 1, 2025 are ineligible to submit this cycle. Review of proposals from prior GUR awardees will include consideration of performance on their past GUR award(s). Applicants who failed to complete previous GUR final reports will not be considered for a GUR award.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Each proposal will be reviewed by one Faculty Senate Research Committee member and two UD faculty disciplinary experts. Given the diversity in backgrounds of committee members, applicants must prepare applications that are understandable by a broad audience. Proposals failing to follow submission guidelines may be returned without review. Last year, the program had a 28% funding rate.

Selection for funding will be based on:

- **Significance of the Problem (15 points):** Does the scholarship clearly address an unmet need of high importance, or is the scholarship extraordinarily novel or a creative innovation?
- **Intellectual Merit of Approach/Adequacy of the Plan for Scholarship (20 points):** Are the research plans and methods well developed, and are the activities clearly defined? Is there high alignment of the proposed activities with the identified significance of the problem?
- **Student Involvement (10 points):** Does the plan for scholarship include actionable steps for student involvement? Is a well-developed training plan included?
- **PI Qualifications (10 points):** Is the proposed research aligned with PI's background, training, and/or previous work? Is it clear how the proposed research will advance the PI's professional career?
- **Justification of Resources (15 points):** Is the budget well defined and justified based on the allowable budget items and research plan? Is the timeline clear and reasonable? Information on other resources (outside of the GUR funds) leveraged in support of the proposed research will be welcomed.
- **Likelihood of Future Sponsorship (20 points):** Does the proposal clearly articulate future resource streams that could sustain the effort beyond the grant period?
- **PI Professional Rank (10 points)**

The Faculty Senate Research Committee consists of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship, and Innovation (or Research Office designee) and eight faculty members (one serving as chair).

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

PROJECT BUDGET

GUR proposals may request up to **\$15,000**. Proposals with insufficiently detailed budgets or budget justifications may be returned without review. GUR proposals do not require matching funds from the PI's College and/or Department. However, matching funds may be included when applicable and when pre-approved by the Chair and Dean.

BUDGETING GUIDELINES

Personnel: PI faculty summer salary up to \$5,000 or 1/9th salary, whichever is less, is allowable. Matching faculty academic time is permitted though not required. Inclusion of graduate and undergraduate research assistants (RAs) is encouraged. Research assistants may be paid hourly or on stipends. Matching student RA stipends related to the proposed research are permitted.

Fringe Benefits: Fringe benefit costs are required for all personnel categories other than PI summer salary.

Direct Research Expenses: Expense categories such as equipment, participant support costs, and other direct research costs typically allowed by federal sponsors are permitted. Travel for proposed scholarship may be supported if it is well justified within the scope of the project.

Unallowable Expenses: Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, graduate tuition, and PI fringe benefits are unallowable on GUR awards. If the graduate RA is supported on a stipend from this award, a financial plan for covering required graduate tuition costs should be articulated in the budget justification.

The committee will consider a wide variety of specific budgetary requests if the budget items are adequately justified. A budget justification is required in the application. Instructions for the budget justification can be found in the [GUR Proposal Template](#). The committee may choose to award a GUR grant at a level of funding different from the amount requested.

All budgets should be prepared with the understanding that budget changes exceeding 25% of the total award and re-budgeting of funds into categories not included in the original budget must be approved by the Research Office. See the GUR Post-Award section for more information.

NOTE: For tax purposes, stipends for principal investigators on GUR grants are fellowships rather than wages and are therefore exempt from FICA, but no fellowship is exempt from Federal and State payroll taxes. It is assumed that a faculty member receiving fellowship funds will not have any qualified educational expenses and appropriate payroll taxes will be subject to withholding at the time of disbursement.

PROJECT DURATION

GUR grants are awarded for up to two years with **periods of performance commencing June 1**. No-cost extensions may be granted up to three times only when circumstances warrant. No-cost extension instructions are in the GUR Post-Award section.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS & FORMATTING

Submit the GUR proposal using the [GUR Proposal Template](#). All components should be single-spaced using 11-pt Arial font with one-inch margins.

Executive Summary: The executive summary is a one-page section consisting of three sub-sections: an overview, a statement on the significance of the problem, and a statement on the intellectual merit of the approach/plan for scholarship. The overview should include a description of the scope of the proposed activity. The statement on the significance of the problem should describe how the scholarship addresses an unmet need of high importance or is an extraordinarily novel or creative innovation. The statement on the intellectual merit should concisely summarize the plan or methods and activities and how they are clearly aligned with the significance of the problem.

Project Description: A three-page section providing a statement of work including a plan for scholarship with clear achievable goals and details about the expected significance of the scholarship resulting from project activities. The project's intellectual merit/plan for scholarship and significance of the problem should be fully described in the Project Description. Include any relevant figures or tables. Additionally, investigators should specifically include: a training plan for student involvement and explain how the proposed work will enhance the investigator's competitiveness for future extramural research sponsorship and/or opportunities. Proposers should demonstrate how available resources (GUR and outside of GUR) will be strategically utilized in support of the proposed work. In addition, the PI should present a clear trajectory for seeking future extramural sponsorship, including identification of the specific federal agencies, foundations, or other research sponsors they will target. The entire Project Description should be clear to a reviewer having an advanced educational background within an allied discipline, but who may not be an expert in the field.

Timeline: A one-half page description, infographic, or chart detailing a clear and reasonable timeline for the proposed activities. Include dates, tasks, dependencies and milestones as applicable.

Additional information such as References, Budget Justification, PI and co-PI NSF-style Biosketches, and PI and co-PI NSF-style Current & Pending Support should be combined with the proposal template and submitted as one PDF document. Incomplete applications will be returned without review.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

1. A letter of intent (LOI) to submit a full proposal must be submitted by the deadline noted above using [this online application](#) form. Notices of intent include: the PI's full name, department affiliation, and email address; a proposed title; and a short (<250 word) abstract of the proposed work. **Only proposals submitting a LOI will be considered for the competition.**
2. PIs submitting a LOI will receive subsequent instructions on full proposal submission.
3. The [GUR Proposal Template](#) must be used for formatting the proposal which should be submitted as a single PDF document. Complete proposals include an Executive Summary; Project Description; Timeline; References; Budget and Budget Justification; PI and Co-PI NSF-style Biosketches; and PI and co-PI NSF-style Current & Pending Support.
4. Applications must be submitted using the online application system by 11:59 PM on the submission deadline noted above.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FOR UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE GENERAL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANTS

GUR grants are made with the following understood commitments from the PI.

1. Acceptance signifies intent to continue employment with the University for the duration of the proposal period.
2. The University's patent, copyright, and publication policies, found in the [Faculty Handbook](#), apply to research conducted under a GUR grant. GUR research must comply with the [University Research, Sponsored Programs, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Policies](#).
3. If the proposed research includes human subjects or private identifiable data, and/or the use of non-human vertebrate animals, the research protocol must be reviewed and approved by the [Institutional Review Board](#) or the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#) respectively prior to expending any GUR funds. If IRB or IACUC approval is not granted for the study, the award will be withdrawn.
4. Proposal reviewer service is expected of award recipients in future GUR competitions.

5. The University exercises no direction or supervision over the details of the research or activities to be performed but does require adherence to the original objectives and purposes of the grant. It also requires that a final report on the proposal be submitted to the Research Office no later than ninety (90) days after the end date of the award. Final reports can be submitted using the [UD Internal Seed Grant Request form](#).
6. Publications or other scholarly works directly resulting from a GUR grant must include an acknowledgment that the research was carried out with the support of the University of Delaware General University Research grant program. Each grantee is required to furnish one copy of any resulting papers, books, or other publications to the University Library through the Research Office (researchdev@udel.edu).
7. Unless arrangements to the contrary have been included in the proposal as accepted, financial income derived from the project will be returned to the University, up to the amount of the award. This is not meant to conflict with university policies on patents, copyrights, and publications.

GUR POST AWARD

AWARD SELECTION

General University Research grants are awards based on eligibility and merit. Proposals are reviewed for eligibility by the Research Office and evaluations of merit and award recommendations are made by the Faculty Senate Research Committee. The Vice President for Research, Scholarship, and Innovation makes the final award decision.

POST AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Awarded proposals will be assigned an award number and purpose code for expenditures. Only successful awards should be entered into PeopleSoft by PI's department administrator for tracking and reporting purposes. Correspondence and post-award reporting should include the award number and purpose code. All proposals funded at a level different than was proposed, must provide a revised budget before the purpose code is established.

The [UD Internal Seed Grant Request form](#) should be used for re-budgeting and no-cost extension requests and for submitting the required final report.

Rebudgeting: Budget changes exceeding 25% of the total award and re-budgeting of funds into categories not in the original budget require prior approval by the Research Office.

No-cost Extensions: Requests for no-cost extensions must be submitted no sooner than 90 days and at least 30 days prior to the award end date. Requests should include the reason for, and the duration of, the extension. A maximum of one year is allowed per NCE request and total requests are limited to three per award.

Final Reports: A final report for the award must be submitted to the Research Office no later than ninety (90) days after the end date of the grant.

APPENDIX

A. PROPOSAL REVIEW RUBRIC

Score is out of 100 possible points.

	High Marks	Medium Marks	Low Marks
Significance of the Problem (15)	The scholarship clearly addresses an unmet need of high importance or is an extraordinarily novel or creative innovation. (15)	The scholarship addresses an issue of some importance. (8)	The scholarship does not address an unmet need or there is no evidence of novelty or innovation. (1)
Intellectual Merit of Approach/Adequacy of the Plan for Scholarship (20)	The plan or methods are well developed, and activities are clearly defined. There is high alignment of the proposed activities with the identified significance of the problem. (20)	The plan or methods are not fully developed, and activities are less clear. There is some alignment of research activities with the significance of the problem. (10)	The plan or methods are not developed, and activities are unclear. There is little to no alignment of scholarly activities with the significance of the problem. (1)
Student Involvement (10)	The plan of scholarship includes actionable steps for student involvement. A well-developed training plan is included. (10)	The plan of scholarship lacks actionable steps for student involvement. The training plan is not fully developed. (6)	The plan of scholarship does not include actionable steps for student involvement. The training plan is not developed. (1)
PI Qualifications (10)	The PI is highly qualified in terms of background, training, and/or previous work to carry out the proposed research. It is clear how the proposed research will advance PI's professorial career. (10)	The PI has demonstrated some qualification in terms of background, training, and previous work to carry out the proposed research. It is less clear how the proposed research will advance their professorial career. (6)	There is no sufficient evidence of background, training, and/or previous work to carry out the proposed research. It does not appear to advance their professorial career. (1)
Justification of Resources (15)	The budget is well defined and justified based on the allowable budget items and research plan. The timeline provided is clear and reasonable. (15)	The budget is lacking some details and/or includes unallowable budget items. The timeline provided is vague and/or unreasonable. (8)	The budget is undeveloped and not justified. No timeline is provided. (1)
Likelihood of Future Sponsorship (20)	Specific future support mechanisms and/or opportunities are clearly and specifically stated. (20)	Future support mechanisms and/or opportunities are broadly stated. (10)	Future support mechanisms and/or opportunities are not stated. (1)
PI Professional Rank (10)	PI is Tenure Track Assistant Professor or Continuing Track Faculty (any rank) (10)	PI is Tenure Track Associate Professor (8)	PI is Tenure Track Full Professor (6)

B. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTED PROPOSALS

FACULTY PROCEDURES

1. When a proposal is selected for funding, the faculty member should reach out to their applicable department administrator or grant analyst so that a record in UD's Grant Management System, PeopleSoft (PS), can be initiated.
2. Faculty should provide the administrator with a single PDF copy of the full proposal submission.
3. Faculty should work with the Department Administrator to develop a more detailed budget as is required for PeopleSoft input. A [detailed budget template](#) can be found on the Research Office website.

ADMINISTRATOR PROCEDURES

Departmental administrator or grant analyst guidance for using [UD's Grants Management System](#) is available on the Research Office website and by contacting the department's assigned Contract & Grant Analyst in the Research Office.

GUR PEOPLESOFT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sponsor ID: 0921 – General University Research
2. Purpose: RSCH7 – University Sponsored Research
3. Budget Considerations:
 - Requested amount up to \$15,000 entered as direct costs
 - Applicable cost-share entered from department and/or College (not required)
 - Faculty Summer Salary: Up to \$5,000 for the Principal Investigator budgeted under account code 120800 and budget category PSTDOC so that fringe benefits are not incurred.
 - Graduate student tuition is prohibited.
 - F&A Pricing Setup: F&A costs are not permissible on GUR awards.
 - Choose "Industrial Research On-Campus" for the rate type; overwrite the F&A rate to zero.
 - Pricing Method should be FIXED
4. Under the Attachments tab, upload a single PDF copy of the full proposal submission using the following naming convention: ProposalID_Other
5. Routing of FIN Proposal Approval Summary (PAS) webform should include PI, Department Chair, College Dean and OSP per standard procedures.

FACULTY S-CONTRACT PROCEDURES

If you choose to receive a stipend from your recently awarded grant, the S-Contract that is processed by your department should identify the payment by using account code 120800 and the earnings code PFF. This account code will identify the stipend as a fellowship, which is not subject to FICA taxes, TIAA pension contributions, or university matching of such contributions. In addition, the account will not be charged fringe benefits on the stipend. The comments section of the S-Contract should include the phrase "Stipend Award from GUR". University policy limits a summer payment such as this to 1/9th of your regular salary.