



Request for Proposals (RFP) 2026-2027 Cycle (All Categories)

The [University Research Committee \(URC\)](#) - with support from the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research (SVPR), and in collaboration with the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning and the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry - announces the annual Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding to be used during the 2026-2027 cycle.

History of the URC Funding Program

In 1944, the McCandless family designated a gift to support research at Emory University. The URC was formed shortly after to oversee the distribution of the funding. Since its inception, the URC has functioned under the auspices of the Faculty Council as a standing committee. Today, the URC seeks to nurture and recognize the entire spectrum of research disciplines.

Purpose

The URC promotes rigorous and innovative scholarship in all academic disciplines to benefit the Emory community and beyond.

The URC supports:

- Early career faculty on their path toward research independence
- More advanced faculty who wish to engage novel questions that enhance their expertise
- Teams of faculty who seek to transcend the boundaries of their respective disciplines and undertake transformative research

Categories of Support

Proposals for the following six (6) URC categories are sought:

1. Arts: Visual and Performing
2. Biological and Health Sciences
3. Humanities
4. Interdisciplinary
5. Mathematics and Natural Sciences
6. Social Sciences

Featured URC Co-Support

The [Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning](#) contributes meaningful funds to the URC to support international research projects. At the discretion of the Halle Institute, grantees in any URC category whose proposal includes significant research conducted outside of the United States may receive the extra designation of being a [URC - Halle Institute Global Research Award](#).

The [Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry \(FCHI\)](#) in collaboration with the URC will support up to two eligible URC awardees to be designated Fox Center Fellows. They will join a cohort of researchers in residence including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and tenured faculty.



To be eligible, awardees must be assistant professors and their proposal must align with the Fox Center's 2026-27 research theme, [HABITAT](#).

By supporting promising faculty research, the URC at Emory University seeks to contribute to the cultivation of intellectual resources for a better future.

Eligibility

Regular, continuing full-time faculty of Emory University are eligible to apply. URC eligibility follows criteria for "full-time faculty" as defined within each school. Postdocs, fellows, adjuncts, and part-time faculty are not eligible to apply for URC funding. For full-time faculty in Emory College of Arts and Sciences (ECAS), more information regarding eligibility requirements can be found under "Leave Policies and Course Release" on the [ECAS Office of Faculty website](#).

Submission Limits

Each applicant may submit **one** proposal as PI, Co-PI, or investigator.

Past URC awardees must (1) wait three full URC cycles after their previous award's completion date before submitting a new funding proposal to the URC and (2) have completed the required URC project progress reports. It is important to note that an award's completion date includes any approved no-cost extensions (NCEs).

Timeline

10/17/25 – RFP released

11/06/25 – Information Session via Zoom

01/17/26 – Proposals due by 11:59 p.m. ET

04/20/26 – Award notification (projected)

06/01/26 – Project period start date

03/31/27 – No Cost Extension (NCE) Request Deadline

05/31/27 – Project period end date

Award Details

Period of Performance

The project period is one year and runs from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027.

No Cost Extensions (NCE)

URC awards are non-renewable grants, designed to be completed within one 12-month time period, beginning to end. While it is not routine practice for the URC to grant NCEs, on occasion, additional time is needed due to extenuating circumstances that may have hindered the completion of the project within the standard 12-month time period.

Upon approval by the URC faculty co-directors, one NCE is permitted for a project after the original 12-month award cycle. Details on NCEs will be provided upon award.



Number of Awards Anticipated

- Typically, 30-38 awards are made across all six (6) URC categories.
- The proportion of awards by category varies year over year.

Budget Limits

- Award maximums are \$30,000 and most URC awards are single PI projects.
- Interdisciplinary proposals are the singular exception to this award ceiling, with awards up to \$40,000 possible.
 - Details on how the URC defines Interdisciplinary work, PI limits, etc. can be found within the URC FAQs, [here](#)
- **No** exceptions to award maximums will be made.

Budget is not a criterion for assessing the scholarly merits of a proposal; however, reviewers may comment on the appropriateness of specific funding requests. Applicants should ensure that all requested funding is appropriate for and aligned with the proposed scope of work.

Use of URC Funds

The following are **allowable** expenses of URC awards and may be included within the budget request.

- *Direct expenses* for the current proposed project.
- *Subcontracts* are accepted only with the following Emory-affiliated entities and must include justification:
 - Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)
 - Georgia Tech Department of Biomedical Engineering
- *Student Assistance* - funding for undergraduates and graduate students
- *Co-worker Assistance* - funding for post-docs and staff, as appropriate and with justification
 - NOTE: If included, applicants should ensure that additional funding sources are available to cover the student and post-doc compensation beyond the 1-year period of URC funding (as needed).
- *Course Release(s)* - Individuals requesting course releases should include a maximum of \$12,500 per course within the proposed URC budget. Up to two course releases may be requested, with a maximum of \$25,000 in course release funding requested.
 - The proposal must include official approval from your school's Dean for the requested course release(s). The format for documenting Dean's approval is left to each of the participating schools. In addition to obtaining Dean's approval, faculty who request course release(s) are also responsible for coordinating with their department head/chair, as appropriate.
 - Proposals that include a request for course release funds but that lack official Dean's approval will not be considered.
 - If the budgeted amount in the proposal is not sufficient to support the school's expectation for funding the requested course release(s), the applicant and the applicant's Chair, in consultation with their Dean, are responsible for finding other (non-URC) funds to fill the gap.



The following are **not allowable** URC expenses and should not be included within the budget request:

- Purchase of equipment that supports standard day-to-day operations (e.g., computers, standard laboratory equipment in the field)
- Purchase of books, computer software, and/or subscriptions to professional journals
- Publishing costs of any kind
- Costs for conference attendance
- First / business class airfare
- Expenses or commitments beyond the award's period of performance
- Faculty salary support or benefits
- All other regular operating expenses not listed herein

Application Deadline

The submission deadline for all URC categories is **11:59 p.m. ET on January 17, 2026**. Important note! Applications must be submitted by this deadline. In-progress applications will be auto-rejected by the system.

Submission Instructions

All URC proposals must be submitted within InfoReady, Emory University's internal competition software. Details below.

NOTE: Each URC category has a dedicated application space within Emory's InfoReady instance.

Please select the InfoReady link below that aligns with the funding category for which your work is best suited.

Category	Link
Arts: Visual & Performing Arts	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1994775
Biological & Health Sciences	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1997260
Humanities	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1997261
Interdisciplinary	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1997262
Mathematics & Natural Sciences	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1997264
Social Sciences	https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1997265



Application Overview

Format

- Single-spaced
- 11-point font Arial with one-inch margins.
 - Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable.
 - All text must be legible.

Application Requirements

1. **Online Submission Form.** Entered directly into Emory's InfoReady portal. Requested information includes:
 - a. Required Applicant and General Proposal Information
 - Confirmation of URC subcommittee applying to
 - Past URC Awardee? yes/no; year of previous award (if applicable)
 - PI First Name, Last Name
 - PI's Emory Email address
 - URC Proposal Title
 - PI Degree(s), note highest completed
 - Faculty Rank (PI Primary Appointment)
 - PI School/College/Unit/Department (Primary Appointment)
 - Department Head / Chair Info: Name & Emory email address
 - URC Proposal Resubmission? yes/no
 - Course Release Funds Requested? yes/no; amount (if applicable)
 - Significant Research Outside of US Declaration; yes/no
 - Total URC Funds Requested; enter amount
 - b. Proposal Title
 - c. Abstract. Brief layperson's abstract (250-word limit; rich text entry).
2. **Resubmission Statement**, if applicable (1-page limit). If resubmitting a previously unawarded URC proposal, include a statement that outlines the revisions made in the current proposal submission.
3. **Research Plan.** (6-page limit). Proposers should include the following headings and address the criteria outlined below (as is applicable to their proposed work).
 - a. **Introduction:** Describe the area of research, scholarship, or creative activity. Include the current state of knowledge in the literature. State the overall objective of the research.
 - b. **Project Goals and Objectives:** Define the long-term goals of the proposed project and what you hope to achieve. If relevant, identify subsequent external recognitions, honorifics, products, and/or external funding to which the proposed project may lead. Describe the objectives and/or milestones that will contribute to achieving the long-term goals.
 - c. **Significance and Impact:** State the importance and relevance of the proposed work within the represented fields. Discuss any novel ideas or contributions that each project offers.



- d. **Design and Methods:** Describe the overall design of the proposed project, conceptual or clinical framework, and methods, procedures, and/or activities that will be used to accomplish the objectives of the project. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Describe any novel concepts, approaches, tools, or technologies that will be used. Describe the approach to be used for data analysis and interpretation, if applicable.
 - e. **Team Leadership and Collaboration** (if applicable): Describe the team's collaboration and/or leadership plan. If the project involves collaboration with an international partner, include a statement describing the collaboration and an indication of how the research will be shared with international partners.
 - f. **Alignment with URC Purpose:** Describe how the proposed project will advance the purpose of the URC program by supporting: an early career faculty member on their path toward research independence, more advanced faculty who wish to engage novel questions that enhance their expertise, and/or a team of faculty members who seek to transcend the boundaries of their respective disciplines and undertake transformative research.
 - g. **References / Bibliography / Works Cited.** Required but not included within the six (6) page limit.
4. **Attachments:**
- a. *Budget Request* (required; use URC-provided Excel template).
 - b. *Budget Justification* (required; use URC-provided Word template).
 - c. *Current & Pending Support* (required). Applicants must **MUST** provide abstracts of their currently funded and pending grants. clearly indicate any scientific or academic overlap with the submitted URC proposal. NIH, NSF, SciENCv, or the provided URC template are all acceptable formats.
 - d. *Biosketch(es)/CV* (required). All PIs, co-investigators, and co-applicants must provide a biosketch or CV. SciENCv format is acceptable; however, a two-page limit applies for all other formats.
 - e. *Course Release Approval* (required, if requested). If requesting approval and funding for a course release, the proposal must include official approval from your school's Dean for the requested course release(s). The format for documenting Dean's approval is left to each of the participating schools. See additional details above.
 - f. *Letter of Commitment / Invitation* (optional and if applicable). Proposers may include an optional letter of commitment or invitation from partnering institutions such as universities, research centers, archives, libraries, laboratories and/or government agencies.
5. **Applicant Acknowledgement:** The applicant must acknowledge all terms and conditions of the URC award as set forth in the Policies and Guidelines of the URC and that their respective Department Head(s) / Chair(s) have been informed of the intent to submit to the URC program. This acknowledgement is located within the



Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by established URC subcommittees. The subcommittees will provide a recommendation for funding to the final selection committee, led by the URC Co-Directors, who will determine the awardees. Reviews will consist of an overall rating reflecting the review criteria detailed below. All three criteria will be equally weighted in review:

1. Alignment with URC Purpose
 - Does the proposed project clearly align with the stated purpose of the URC funding program?
2. Intellectual Merit
 - Will the proposed activity
 - Address an important question or problem?
 - Advance knowledge and understanding? (Potential advances will be assessed with respect to the proposal's ability to specify the current state-of-the-art.)
 - Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
 - Advance the field's creative contributions by exploring original or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Implementation Plan
 - Are the details for carrying out the proposed activities
 - Well-reasoned and based on a sound rationale?
 - Will the PIs have access to the resources (e.g., expertise, tools, equipment) needed to conduct the proposed activities? Resources will be assessed with respect to the proposal's ability to specify the resources needed, already possessed, and ultimately required.

Scoring Scale

- *Excellent*: An outstanding proposal in all respects; deserves the highest priority for support.
- *Very Good*: a high-quality proposal in nearly all respects; should be supported if possible.
- *Good*: A quality proposal worthy of support
- *Fair*: A proposal lacking in one or more critical aspects; key issues need to be addressed.
- *Poor*: A proposal has serious deficiencies.

Post-Award Considerations

Required Project Reporting

Awardees are required to submit four annual reports for URC awards. These reports provide the URC with needed insight into both the progress of work, the post-completion impact of each award made through the program, as well as supporting future allocations of institutional funds to the URC.

Project Reporting Schedule

June 2027 == Annual Report 1

June 2028 == Annual Report 2



June 2029 == Annual Report 3

June 2030 == Annual Report 4

Non-compliant award recipients will be ineligible to apply for another URC grant until all the reports are submitted and accepted by the URC.

Acknowledgement of Funding Support

Abstracts, publications, presentations, creative works, and similar products arising from the work funded by the URC program should cite the appropriate funding source:

- Emory URC Research Award
- Emory URC - Halle Institute Global Research Award
- Emory URC - Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Research Award

Post-Award Financial Management

The URC will establish URC awards/projects within Emory's financial management systems, with the exception of course releases. URC awards are managed by the awardee's departmental administrative financial support staff. The awardee's financial department is responsible for monitoring and managing all expenses for the URC award and for providing the required project financial report to the faculty member when the URC project is completed. The URC will be responsible for closing/inactivating the award project, Funding for any approved course release(s) will be transferred from URC directly to awardee's school to accommodate the expense of the awardee's course release.

Any portion of awarded funds not utilized by the end of the 12-month award cycle will be transferred by the URC coordinator back to the University Research Committee within three months of the project end date.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the submission process or the URC program, please contact URC Administrative Support at urcappl@emory.edu.