

UW ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) INFO SESSION







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1. February 2024

ROADMAP

-  RRF objectives and eligibility
-  Review process and review criteria
-  Preparing the proposal
-  Submitting the proposal
-  Decisions
-  Insider tips for a successful proposal

THE BASICS

Mission



> UW Research > Office of Research Central > Royalty Research Fund (RRF)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/>

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“...to **advance new directions in research**, particularly:



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and/or (2) for **faculty who are junior in rank**



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and/or (2) for **faculty who are junior in rank**

and/or (3) for in cases where funding may **increase applicants' competitiveness for subsequent funding**



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- Support **pedagogical innovations** with limited impact
 - Must advance knowledge, connect to body of literature

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Scholar vs. Standard RRF

- **Standard:** Up to 2 months summer salary total
- **Scholar:** One quarter teaching release

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- **Past recipients** eligible 2 years after formal termination of previous award and receipt of final report

THE BASICS

Deadlines

- Solicited twice a year
- Due by 5pm on:
 - The first Monday in March (**Monday, March 4, 2024**)
 - The last Monday in September (**Monday, Sept 30, 2024**)
- Awards announced by June/January

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- Awards announced by June/January
- **Begin the process early** – optimally 1-2 months in advance
 - Work with Office of Research!
 - Discuss with Dean/Director **well in advance**, particularly if requesting teaching release
 - Aim for completed proposal (3-5) business days in advance

THE BASICS

Proposal components

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-for-applicants/instructions-for-preparing-an-rrf-proposal/#research>

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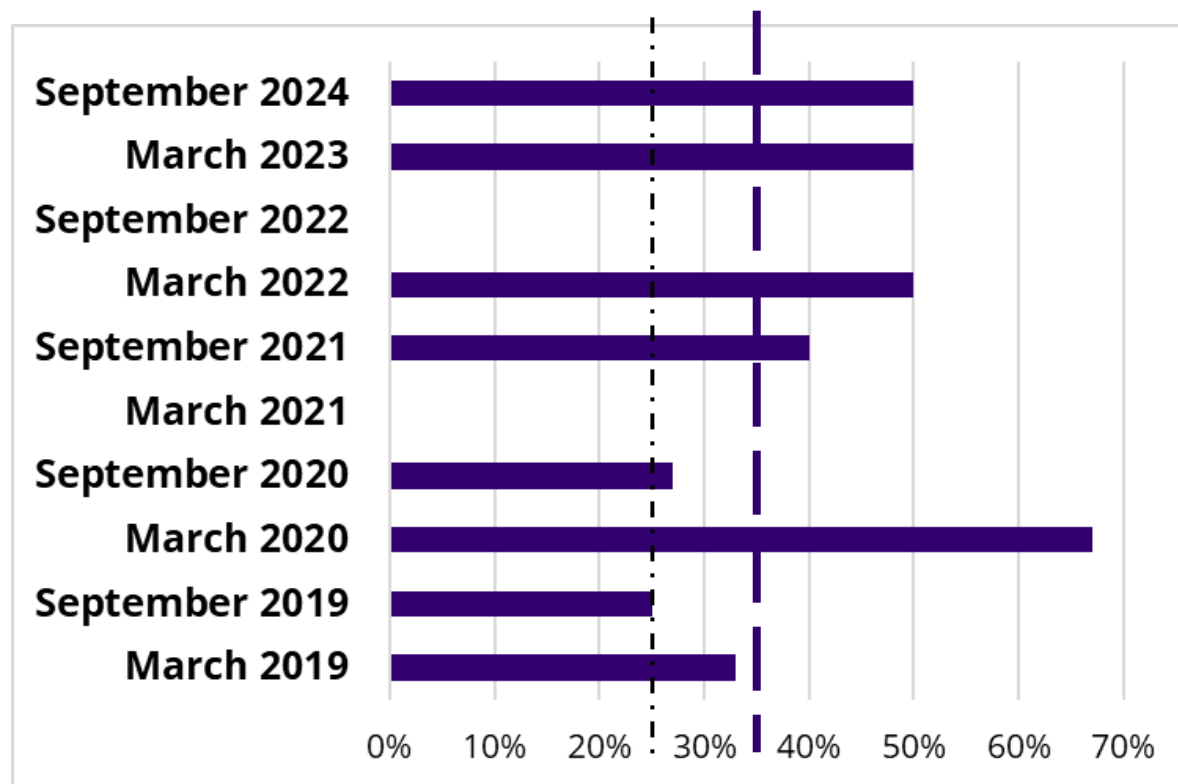
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Broad Funding Patterns

- Average tri-campus award rate = **25%** [range = 23-28%]
- Tacoma average (last 10 rounds): **35%**



REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1: Proposal assigned to one of 4 review committees

**Physical
Sciences &
Engineering**

**Basic
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**Arts &
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REVIEW PROCESS

Each staffed with 6-16 UW faculty from relevant disciplines (*as of Sept 2023*):

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Engineering & Mathematics**
Environmental & Forest Sciences
Mechanical Engineering
Physical Sciences**
Physics
Statistics

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Biochemistry
Bioengineering
Biology
Emergency Medicine
Gerontology
Global Health
Immunology
Laboratory Medicine
Medicinal Chemistry
Metabolism, Endocrinology & Nutrition
Microbiology
Pharmacy
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Speech & Hearing

Arts & Humanities

American Indian Studies*
Architecture
Cinema & Media Studies
Communication and Media**
English
Scandinavian Studies
Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology
Child, Family & Population Health
Nursing
Geography
History
International Studies
Political Science
Special Education
Urban Design & Planning

*UW Tacoma Member

**UW Bothell Member

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 2: Committee identifies one member as “**lead reviewer**” for each proposal

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- Assigned based on self-selection, expertise/discipline
- Conflicts of interest avoided
- **Important figure** – can champion, mediate outlier reviewers
- Likely to come from different field, lens – **plan accordingly**

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Committee Members

[Home](#) > [UW Research](#) > [Office of Research Central](#) > [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#)

Arts and Humanities

- Olivia N. Gunn
Scandinavian Studies
- Susan Harewood
Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences – Bothell
- Louisa M. Iarocci
Architecture / Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
- Danica Miller
American Indian Studies / Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences – Tacoma
- Suhanthie Motha
English
- LeiLani Nishime
Communication / Cinema and Media Studies / Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Social and Behavioral Sciences

- Kathleen Artman Meeker
Special Education
- Radhika Govindrajan
Anthropology / International Studies

RRF FOR AWARDEES

- [List of Past RRF Awardees](#)
- [Guidelines for RRF Grants](#)
- [Scholar Budget Instructions](#)

RRF FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- [Committee Member Lists](#)
- [Application Review Process \(*restricted\)](#)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-committee-members/>

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 3: Lead committee member/reviewer **recruits (2)**
additional UW reviewers

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 - At least 1 of these probably used – **think strategically!**

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- Lead reviewer/committee works to identify other reviewers – **may (not) come from your field**

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- Reviewers remain anonymous (PI does not)

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 4: Proposals **ranked quantitatively** by average score

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Step 6: Committee **selects proposals and allocates awards**

REVIEW CRITERIA

Primary Criterion: Merit

- Scored on (4) criteria – scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)
 - #1: “Research performance **competence**”
 - #2: “**Intrinsic merit** of the research”
 - #3: “**Utility or relevance** of the research”
 - #4: “Effect of the research on the **university infrastructure**”

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- Budget not considered as part of the review

REVIEW CRITERIA

#1: Research performance competence

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- “**Capability** of investigator(s)
- “**Technical soundness** of the approach
- Adequacy of institutional **resources** available

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- Likelihood that the research will lead to new discoveries or **fundamental advances** in the field(s)
- Potential for substantial **impact on progress** in that field

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#3: Utility or relevance of the research

- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a **goal that is extrinsic or in addition to** that of the field
 - e.g. supporting new technology or solutions to societal problems, enhance teaching

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- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a **goal that is extrinsic or in addition to** that of the field
 - e.g. supporting new technology or solutions to societal problems, enhance teaching
- Potential for **broader impacts** such as:
 - Increasing diversity and inclusion in the field
 - Supporting and mentoring BIPOC students, post-docs, and/or early career colleagues
 - Conducting research that benefits underrepresented or underserved communities

REVIEW CRITERIA

#4: Effect of the research on university infrastructure

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- Potential to improve the quality, distribution, or effectiveness of **university's research and education activities**
- *Somewhat secondary: Not intended to 'make or break' a proposal*

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 - c) "...originates in disciplines with **minimal funding opportunities**"

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Availability/timeliness for obtaining future funding

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PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

Description of proposed research (6 pages)

A. Introduction and Rationale

B. Broader Impacts



C. Objectives

D. Procedure

E. Time Schedule

F. Need for RRF

**Section headings MUST appear exactly as above, in order;
Do not include any other heading**

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- **Discrete** project...
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- Focused on **increasing competitiveness** for future funding
 - ...and/or **your development** as a scholar

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Description of proposed research *(6 pages)*

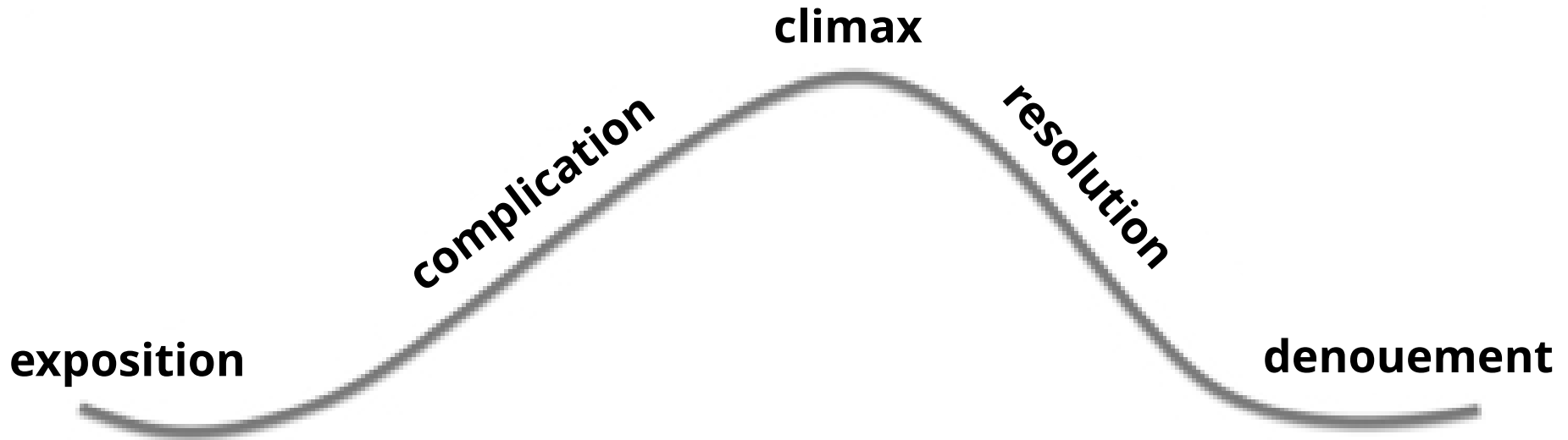
- A. Introduction and Rationale
- B. Broader Impacts
- C. Objectives
- D. Procedure
- E. Time Schedule
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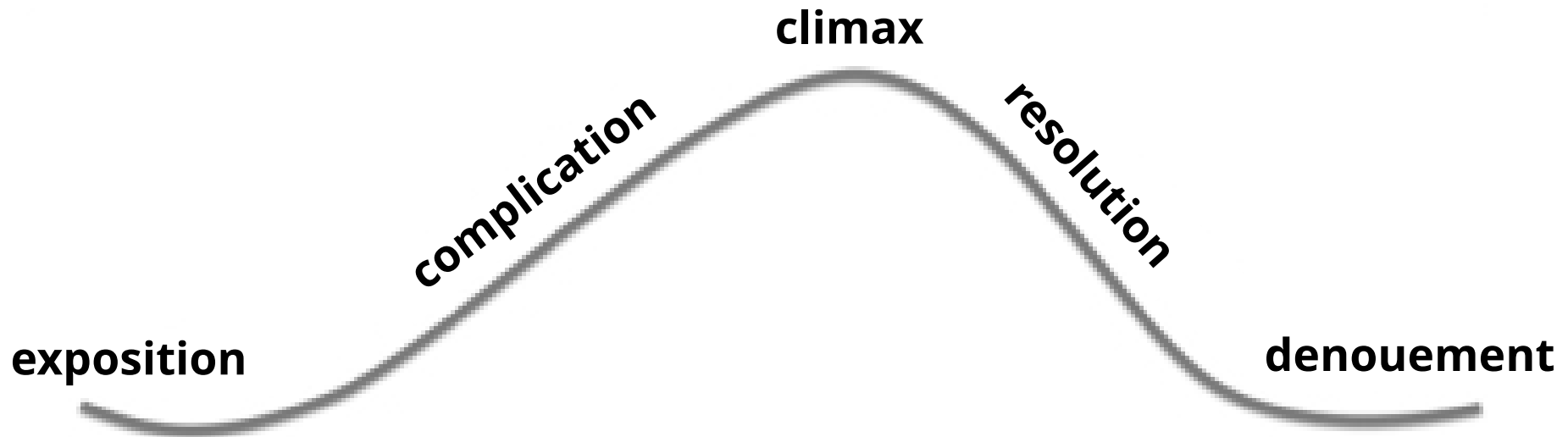
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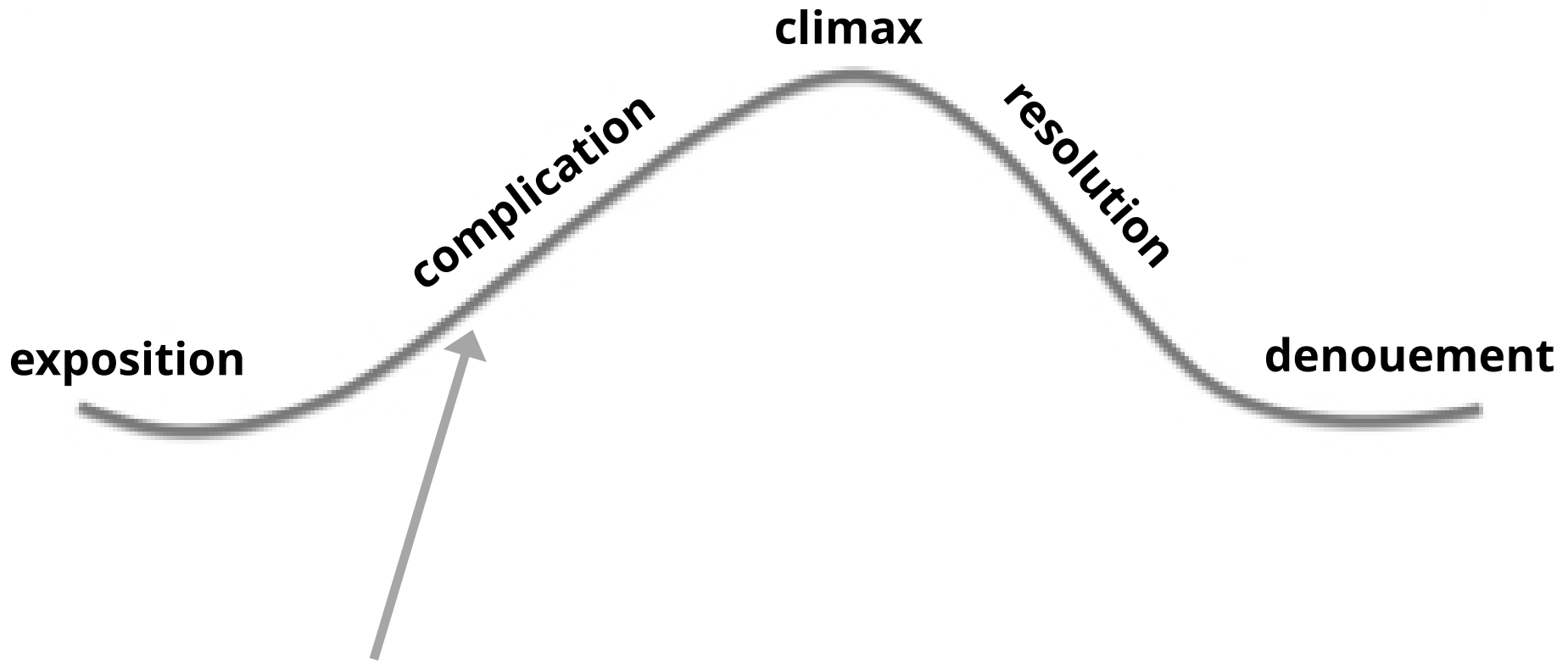
Think of the proposal's narrative arc...





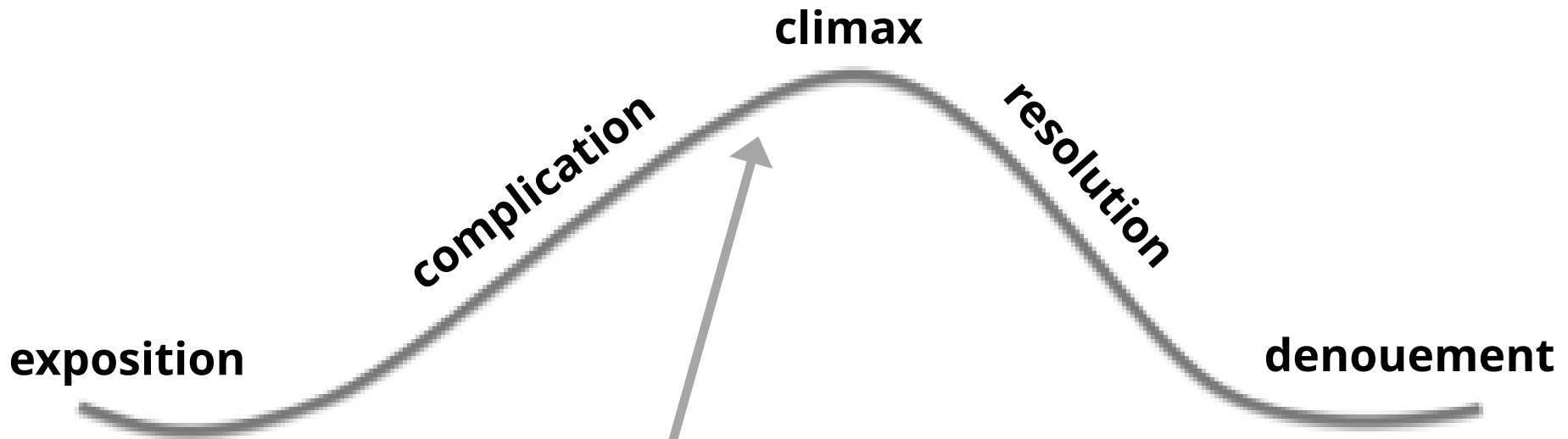
A. Introduction/Rationale:

- Describe the **fundamental "problem"**
- Theoretical **background/justification**
- **Significance** & Potential **impact**



A. Introduction/Rationale:

- *Critical literature review*
- ***Preliminary work***, if any, including publications
- *Identify a critical gap in knowledge / practice*

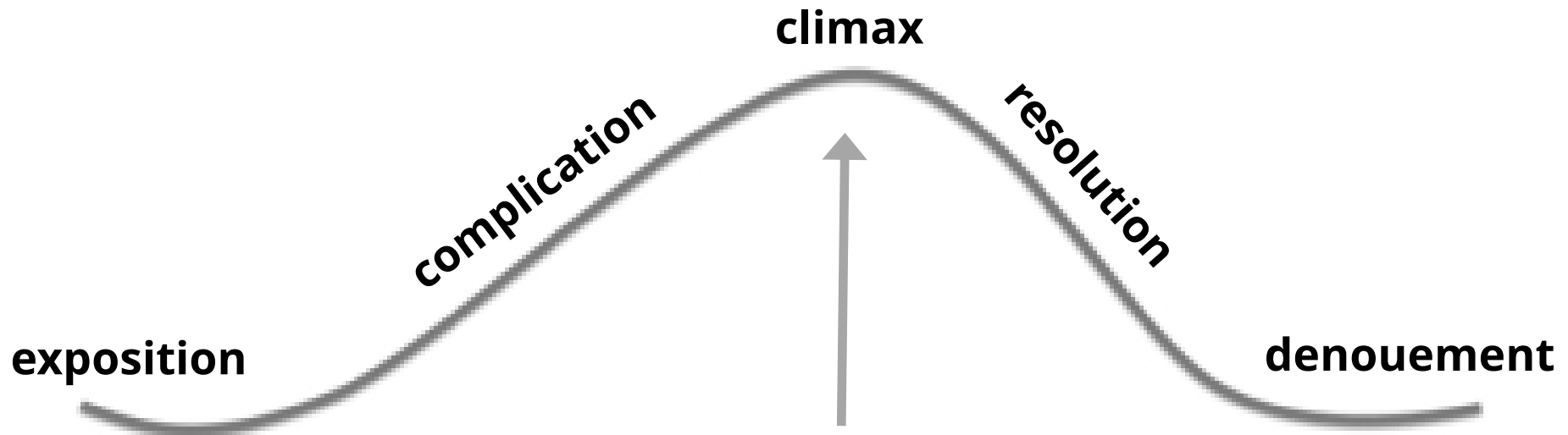


B. Broader Impacts



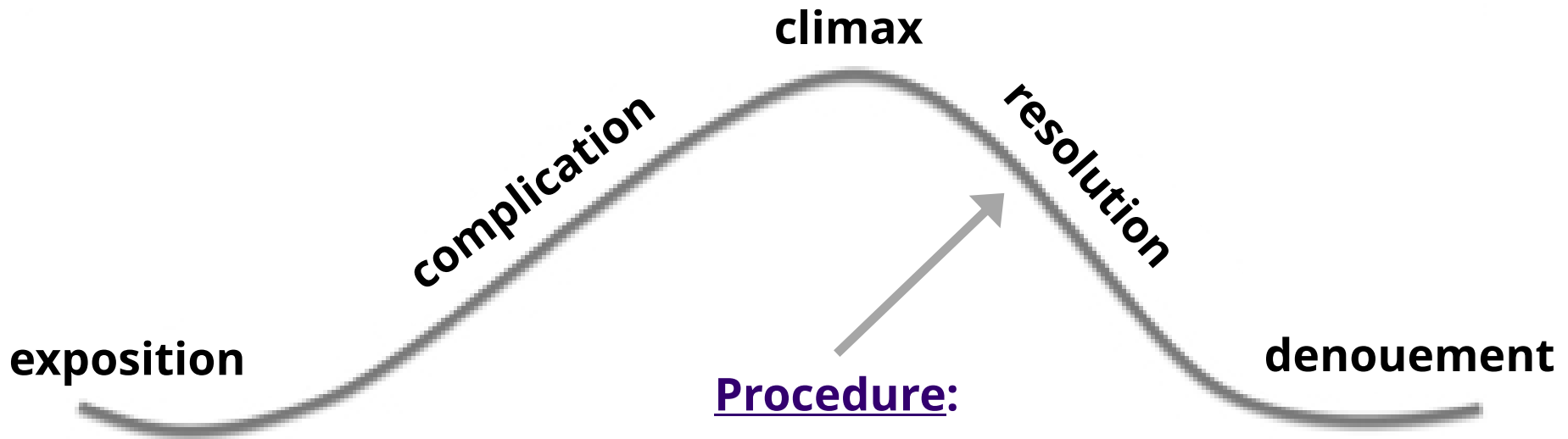
How does the project demonstrate **engagement with broader impacts** such as:?

- Activities aimed at **increasing diversity and inclusion** in the field
- **Supporting and/or mentoring BIPOC members of UW community**
– students, post-docs, and/or early career colleagues
- Benefitting **underrepresented and/or underserved communities**

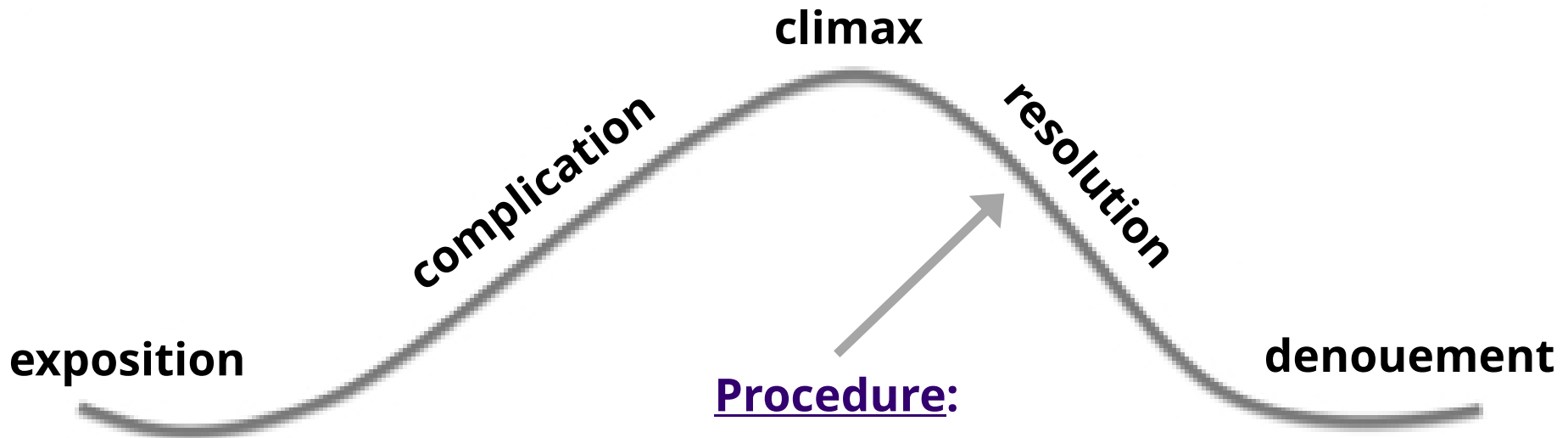


Objectives:

- How do you **propose to address** The Critical Gap and achieve Broader Impacts?
- What **objectives** will the project accomplish towards that end?
- Specific, measurable **aims**



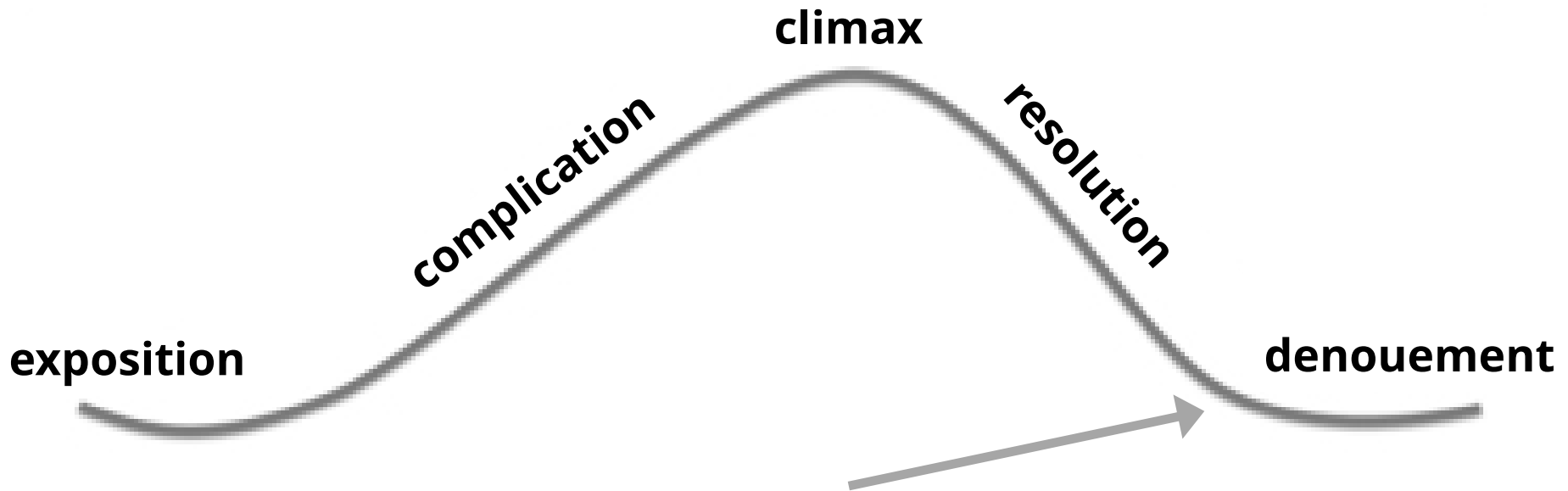
- *What is your **plan** for achieving the objectives?*
- *What **methods/tools** will be used?*
- *What **capacities** do you have to successfully execute?*
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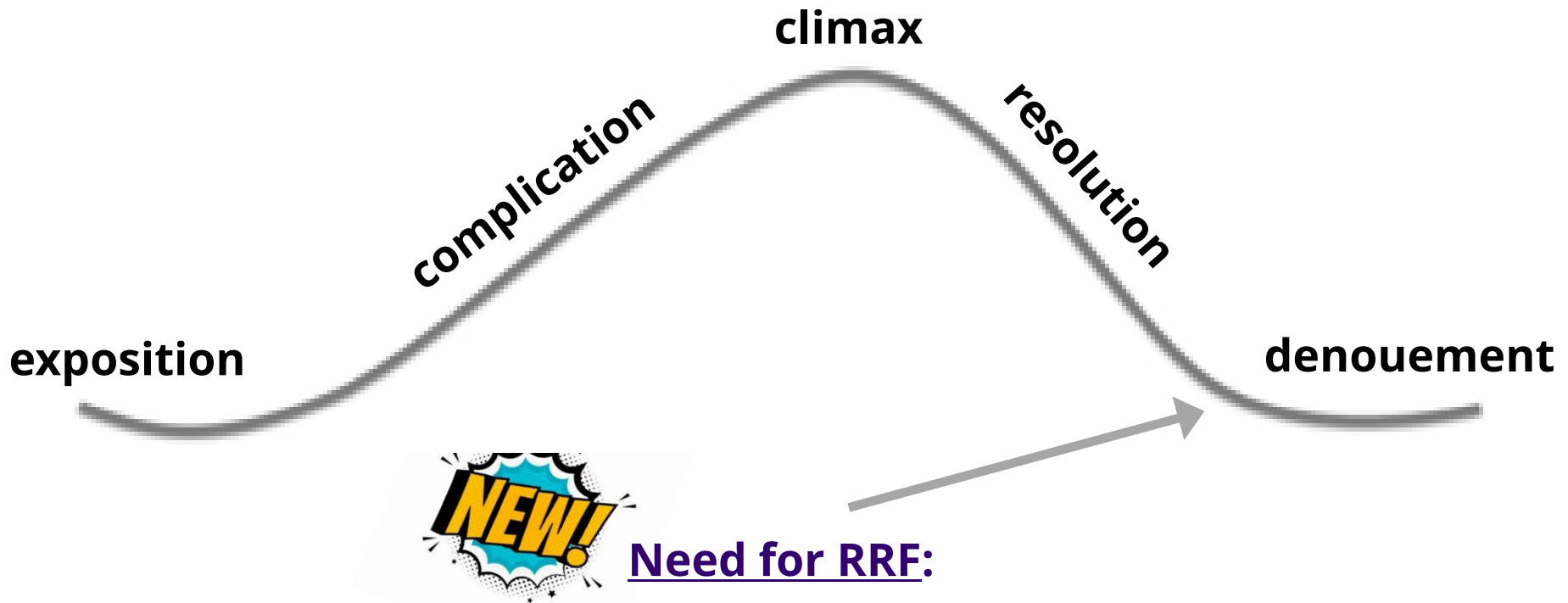
Time Schedule:

- *How will proposed work be **completed within 1-year**?*
- *Consider including a table outlining key milestones*



Need for RRF:

- How will the award **advance your overall research agenda** and career trajectory?
- How will award **increase competitiveness** for subsequent funding?
- Briefly: **Anticipated contribution** to the field and practice/society
- Document **teaching load** (if requesting release, i.e. submitting as “RRF Scholar”)



If senior faculty – Describe **in detail** how the project meets at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Supports a genuinely **new direction** in your research and/or career
- b) Constitutes a **unique, time-sensitive opportunity**, e.g. generating preliminary findings for infrequently-offered external funding, time-critical/time-limited work
- c) Originates in a discipline for which **external funding opportunities are minimal**

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 - Past committee members listed on RRF website

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- Request awarded proposals to **understand “sweet spot”**

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Awardees

[Home](#) > [UW Research](#) > [Office of Research Central](#) > [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#)

January 2024 Awardees

- Abbasabadi, Narjes (Architecture)
A195099
CityEnerTwin: A Digital Twin Platform for Urban Building Energy Modeling to Support Decarbonization of the Built Environment – A Case Study of the University of Washington Campus
\$39,722
- Bender Ignacio, Rachel (Medicine – Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
Co-PI Eastment, McKenna (Medicine – Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
A195312
Determinants, barriers, and facilitators to address completeness of cancer staging in Population Based Cancer Registries in low- and middle-income countries
\$40,000
- Brown, Crystal (Medicine – Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine)
A195334
Supporting medical learners in discussing concerns about racism in healthcare settings
\$40,000
- Cansunar, Asli (Political Science)
A195259
Creating National Economies in the Age of Nation-Building

RRF FOR AWARDEES

- [List of Past RRF Awardees](#)
- [Guidelines for RRF Grants](#)
- [Scholar Budget Instructions](#)

RRF FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- [Committee Member Lists](#)
- [Application Review Process \(*restricted\)](#)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf>

BUDGET

Budget

- Up to **\$40,000**
- Budget reductions sometimes occur
 - **Request only what you *really* need**

BUDGET

Allowable budget categories

- **Faculty salary**
 - 2 months summer (“standard”) or release costs for 1 quarter (“scholar”)
 - Summer salary and teaching release rare – justify, identify priority
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- **Retirement and Benefits**
- **Student aid/tuition, if applicable – Discuss with Lisa**

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL



Process

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- 1) **eGC1** created in SAGE [*Systems to Administer Grants Electronically*]

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- 3) **Suggested Reviewers Memo** attached separately in the *Documents to be Submitted to Sponsor* section
- 4) **Approvals via SAGE:** Dean/Director → Finance/Administration and UWT Office of Research → Seattle
 - Plan time for approvals!
 - Discuss teaching release with Dean/Director **well in advance**

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate “Research Area” in SAGE

SAGE

[Back to My eGC1s](#) > [A132867](#) > [Details](#)

A132867

Details

[PI, Personnel, & Organizations](#)

[Contacts & Assign Access](#)

[Abstract & RFA/RFP](#)

[Activity Locations](#)

[Budget & Fiscal Compliance](#)

[Cost Sharing](#)

[Compliance Questions](#)

[Compliance Explanations](#)

[Application Summary](#)

[Attached Documents](#)

[Certify & Route](#)

[Save & Close this eGC1](#)

[Check for Errors](#)

Additional Information for RRF Application ?

Research Area

Choose One

Choose One

Arts or Humanities

Social or Behavioral Sciences

Physical Sciences

Engineering

Basic Biological or Biomedical Sciences

Clinical Biomedical Science

Application for RRF Scholar?
(one quarter teaching release)

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Be strategic! Use past committee member list as guide

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Suggested Reviewer Memo

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- Identify **2 to 4 UW faculty** (any campus) who can provide a “thorough and objective review”
 - Cannot have written or taught with in past 5 years
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- Recommend **UWT faculty** and those who understand our context
- Consider carefully: **At least 1 (maybe 2) will likely review**
 - Particularly important if working in a ‘niche’ field
- Also identify UW **faculty who should not review** the proposal due to a conflict of interest (e.g. supervisors, previous collaborators)

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Decision letter

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 - “...competitive...”
 - In top 25-30% of unfunded proposals
 - “...would probably require significant revisions”
 - Not in top 25-30%
- Regardless, **resubmit!**
 - 60% of successful UWT proposals were resubmissions

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

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1) How is **what you are proposing different than what you have done before?**

- Clearly distinguish between *past* and *proposed* activities
- How will proposed work **build on previous work**
- **What outcome will RRF be able to point to** as a result of the funding?

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 - Demonstrating that you can do that you have thought through details signals to reviewers that you are able to execute

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- 3) Be explicit about **how you will achieve your objectives**
 - RRF does not fund things that say "trust me"
 - Don't be in the "great idea, no idea of how they will do them" group

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

5) Write (*not adapt*) for RRF, show **how RRF will launch** (*not maintain*)

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- 9) **Select reviewers strategically!**
 - Can be difficult to recruit – Make your reviewer's job as easy as possible
 - Recruit a **likely champion**, not a detractor

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

- When possible, specific detail about **future funding / products**
 - Not just “I will apply for NSF funding”... or “I will write a book proposal”
 - ...but a specific program (“NSF Geography”), and timeline (“in Nov 2024”), ‘...book proposal to specific publisher, by specific date

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 - Good place to emphasize commitment to undergraduate research and/or community-engaged scholarship (as applicable)

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- Explicit about how the project fits within **long-term research agenda**
 - The RRF is investing in YOU, and your long-term contributions to the UW’s intellectual capital

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Community-engaged/"applied" work -

Particularly important to:

- **Clearly detail procedures and operationalization** so that nothing about plan appears "fuzzy"
- Emphasize **theoretical contributions** beyond particular site(s)
- Describe how partnerships will set you up for **future work/funding**

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Framing UW Tacoma context:

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 - *Over 60% of undergrads are students of color*
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- Emphasize undergraduate involvement (if applicable)
 - ...but realize that RRF is not intended as undergrad support grant
 - Focus remains on the researcher and their long-term trajectory

WORKING WITH US



The Office of Research is here to help!

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- **Proposal development and editing**

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- **Budget** development

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- **Proposal development** and **editing**
- **Budget** development
- Interested in serving on **RRF committee?** – Talk to us!
 - History of external funding
 - Associate/Full preferred

Thank you! Questions?

Kara Luckey, PhD, Proposal Development Consultant

kluckey@uw.edu

Cheryl Greengrove, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

cgreen@uw.edu

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Committee Members and Awardees

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf>

[Home](#) > [UW Research](#) > [Office of Research Central](#) > [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#)

Proposals must demonstrate a high probability of generating important new creative activities or scholarly understandings, new scholarly materials or resources, significant data or information, or essential instrumentation resources that are likely to significantly advance the reputation of the university, lead to external funding, or lead to developing a new technology.

(Note: RRF proposals must support faculty development; this fund is not intended to support independent research projects undertaken by graduate students and/or post-doctorates.)

Over the past three years, the success rate for RRF proposals has ranged from 24% to 28%, with an average of 26%.

History

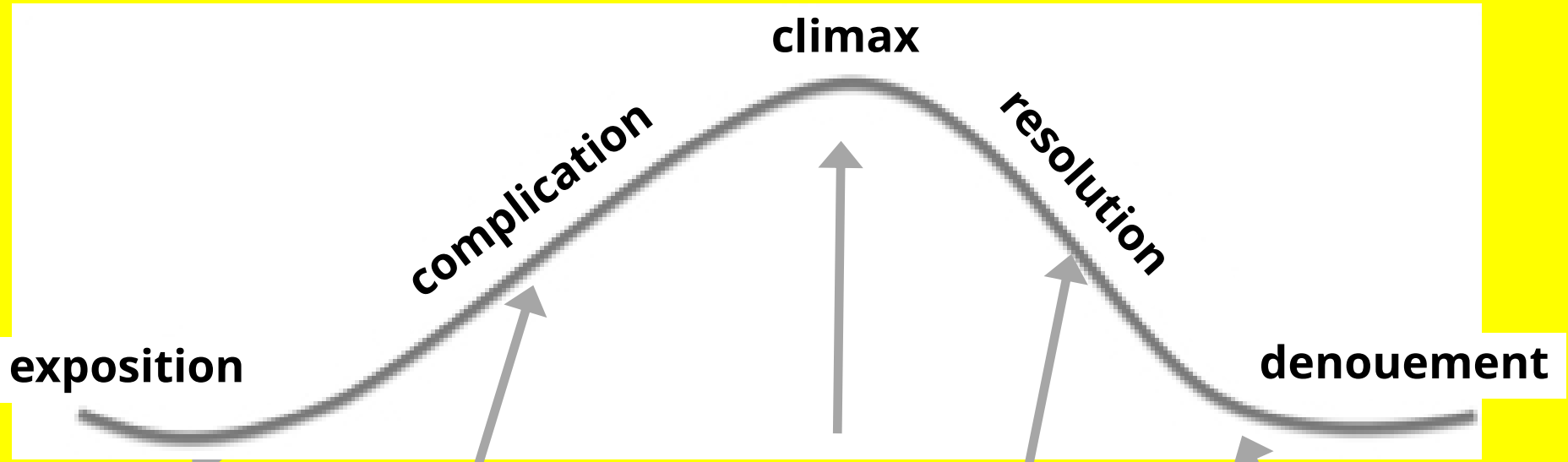
This program is funded from royalty and licensing fee income generated by the University's technology transfer program. The RRF has been offered twice a year since the Spring of 1992. In 1994, the Royalty Research Fund Scholar program was initiated to provide one quarter of release time for faculty with full teaching loads to engage in concentrated scholarly activities. The RRF welcomes proposals with budgets up to \$40,000.

RRF FOR AWARDEES

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- [Guidelines for RRF Grants](#)
- [Scholar Replacement Salary Budget Instructions](#)
- [Sample Scholar Replacement Salary Budget and Workday Implementation Instructions](#)

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Objectives:

Introduction/Rationale:

Procedure:

Time Schedule:

Need for RRF