UW ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) INFO SESSION

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9. September 2025

ROADMAP

- Recent changes to the RRF
- RRF objectives and eligibility
 - Review process and review criteria
 - Preparing the proposal
 - Submitting the proposal
 - Tips for a successful proposal

BIG CHANGES TO THE RRF

What we know (as of 9/8/2025):

- Recent state public records request (similar to FOIA) spurred changes
- Review process has changed significantly
 - No 'outside' reviewers, all reviews/decisions made within committee
 - No numerical scoring
- Overarching objectives remain the same, but review criteria changed slightly and broader impacts genericized
- **Eligibility** now limited to Assistant/Associate (no Full)

RRF OFFICE HOURS

Still many unknowns - Participate in upcoming RRF Office Hours!

- Wed, Sept 10th 1-2p https://washington.zoom.us/j/96327049874
- Wed, Sept 17th 1-2p https://washington.zoom.us/j/98218674274
- Wed, Sept 24th 1-2p https://washington.zoom.us/j/98363238030

Purpose

- "...to advance new directions in faculty research"
- that have a "high probability of generating..."
 - New creative activities, scholarly understandings, materials/resources, significant data/information, and/or essential instrumentation
- and are likely to...
 - Significantly advance the reputation of the university
 - Lead to external funding
 - And/or lead to development of new technologies

Purpose

Must "contribute in substantive ways to the **health**, **creativity**, **and productivity of the research ecosystem**, as defined by the **UW Vision Statement**:

"We discover **timely solutions** to the world's most **complex problems** and **enrich lives** of people throughout our community, the state of Washington, the nation, and the world."

Not intended to...

- Support independent grad student/postdoc research
- Extend or supplement ongoing funded research
- As matching funds for another grant
- Supplement start-up funds
- **Bridge** funding for lapses between external funds (Bridge Funding program services this purpose)
- Support **pedagogical innovations** with limited impact *Must advance knowledge, connect to body of literature*

Budget

- ~\$1 million per cycle (UW royalty and licensing fees)
- Up to \$40,000
- 1-year (no-cost extension of up to 1-year may be granted)

Scholar vs. Standard RRF

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

Eligibility - Principal Investigator (PI) / Co-Investigator (Co-I)

- RRF views the Co-I and PI role to be equivalent in status therefore, eligibility requirements apply to both PI and Co-I
- Eligible: Full-time Professorial Faculty Assistant or Associate only
 - Full Professors no longer eligible as PI or Co-I can only be named in "Other" role
- Eligible: Full-time Professional Staff with regular or fixed-term appointments & PI status
- NOT Eligible: Full professors; Part-time, temporary, clinical (annual term), acting, affiliate, visiting faculty / professional staff
- Eligible faculty for whom salary is requested <u>must be</u> PI/Co-I
- No "honorary" Co-Is, must have a "measurable role" Co-I is equivalent role to PI
- More than one Co-Is must be clearly justified



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

Eligibility & Guidelines

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Role	Can be PI or Co-I	Can receive salary support
Professorial Faculty (Assistant or Associate) Full-Time	Yes	Yes, if PI or Co-I
Professional Staff Full-Time With PI Status	Yes	Yes

- All PIs and Co-Is must hold an eligible rank that is active in Workday on the submission
 deadline. The RRF program views the Co-I (Co-Investigator) role as equal in status to the PI,
 so all PI requirements must also be met by the Co-I. RRF does not permit Co-Is that are
 honorary (including simply acknowledging a mentor relationship) or without a measurable
 role in the project. More than one Co-I must be clearly justified.
- If a UW faculty member holds an eligible rank but is based at another institution (e.g., Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center or VA Puget Sound), all of their extramural grants must be run through the UW in order to be eligible for an RRF award.

Who is Not Eligible to Apply?

Role	Can be PI or Co-I	Can receive salary support
Professors (see NOTE below)	No	No
Faculty with any of the following appointments: non-professorial, part-time, temporary, acting, clinical (annual term), affiliate, visiting, emeritus	No	No
Professional Staff Part-Time, Temporary, or Without PI Status	No	Yes
Postdoctoral Scholars	No	Yes
Graduate Students	No	Yes

- NOTE: Starting with the autumn round of 2025, no new proposals from Professors (including Research, Teaching, and WOT) will be considered.
- This fund does not support independent research projects undertaken by graduate students or postdoctoral scholars.

Eligibility - Other Details

- A PI or co-I may submit (1) proposal per round
- Pls and Co-ls can only be **funded on (1) project** in the same period
- **Up to (2) resubmissions** of same proposal (3 submissions total)
- Past recipients eligible 2 years after formal termination of previous award and receipt of final report
- No overlap with other funding sources RRF proposals may also have been submitted to external funders, but an RRF award cannot be used if an external award covers the same budget items or proposed activities

Deadlines

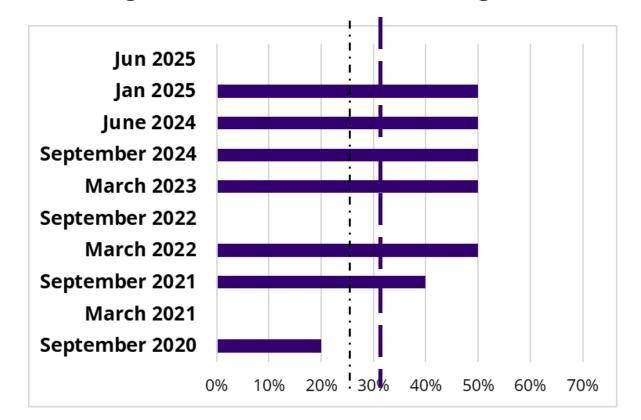
- Solicited twice a year
- Due by **5pm** on:
 - The last Monday in September (Monday, September 29, 2025)
 - The first Monday in March (Monday, March 2, 2026)
- Awards announced by January 15 / June 15

The RRF Office strongly advises submitting 3-4 days in advance of deadline (by Sept 25th)

Applicants must submit final proposal elements to UWT Office of Research by Wed, Sept 17th (5pm)

Broad Funding Patterns

- Average tri-campus award rate (historically) = **25%** [range = 23-28%]
- Tacoma average (last 10 rounds): **32%** (ranges from 0-67%)



June 2025 awards:

- ~30% increase in submissions
- ~19% tri-campus funding rate

What we know (as of 9/9/2025):

- Proposals to be reviewed exclusively by (4) RRF committees
- Committee members will review proposals based on the following review criteria
 - (1) Suitability of proposal to advance RRF objectives
 - (2) Merit
 - (3) Capability of investigator(s); Technical soundness; Likelihood of success
- Proposals vetted / triaged, and "most competitive" to be discussed in committee
- No "outside" reviewers, likely no quantitative scoring

RRF Program Committee Chair

Professor Patricia A. Kramer, UW Anthropology

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences Arts & Humanities

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Each staffed with ~6-16 UW faculty from relevant disciplines (as of Sept 2025):

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Aeronautics and Astronautics

Applied Physics – Polar Science Center

Astronomy

Chemistry & Pharmacology

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Computing and Software Systems**

Engineering & Technology*

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Environmental & Forest Sciences

Mathematics

Physics & Materials Science and Engineering

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Allergy & Infectious Disease

Biology

Earth and Space Sciences

Environmental and Occupational Health & Pharmacology

Epidemiology & Global Health

Medicinal Chemistry

Metabolism, Endocrinology & Nutrition

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Oral Health Sciences

Orthopedic Surgery, Sports Medicine & Bioengineering

Rehabilitation Medicine

Speech & Hearing

Arts & Humanities

Asian Languages and Literature

Classics & Art History

English

Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures

Music

Slavic Languages & Literature

Social & Behavioral Sciences

American Ethnic Studies & Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Anthropology & International Studies

Economics

Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences*

Psychology

Speech & Hearing Sciences

Sociology

Sociology & Statistics

*UW Tacoma Member
**UW Bothell Member



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

Current Committee Members

Current Committee Members

Active Members for Autumn 2025

Arts and Humanities

- Stephanie Clare English
- Aria Fani Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
- Sarah Levin-Richardson Classics / Art History
- Heidi Pauwels Asian Languages and Literature
- Sasha Senderovich Slavic Languages and Literatures / International Studies
- Carrie Shaw Music

Social and Behavioral Sciences

 Zack Almquist Sociology / Statistics



FOR APPLICANTS

- · Application Instructions
- · Eligibility & Guidelines
- · SAGE for RRF Applications

FOR AWARDEES

- List of Awardees
- Post-Award Instructions
- · Scholar Budget Instructions

PEER-REVIEW COMMITTEES

- Current Committee Members
- · Committee Pages (*restricted)

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

(1) Suitability of proposal to advance RRF objectives

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RRF objectives:

- "...to advance new directions in faculty research"
- that have a "high probability of generating <u>new</u> creative activities, scholarly understandings, materials/resources, significant data/information, and/or instrumentation
- and are likely to...
 - Significantly advance the reputation of the university
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(2) Merit

(2) Merit

"Old" RRF review criteria: "Intrinsic merit of the research"

- 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
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a goal that is extrinsic or in addition to that of the field

(3) Capability of investigator(s); Technical soundness; Likelihood of success

Broader Impacts <u>no longer</u> explicit review criteria

Broader Impacts <u>no longer</u> explicit review criteria – Now genericized:

Likelihood of advancing the **UW Vision Statement**:

"We discover **timely solutions** to the world's most **complex problems** and **enrich lives** of people throughout our community, the state of Washington, the nation, and the world."

Proposals submitted by **Associate Professors** – "will be assessed considering their more advanced standing"

Proposals submitted by Associate Professors -

"will be assessed considering their more advanced standing"

"Old" RRF review criteria:

Preference for junior faculty; Senior faculty are funded only when the proposal...

- "...supports a **genuinely new direction** in the applicant's research and/or career development
- "...provide a **unique opportunity** (e.g. competing for subsequent onetime or infrequently-offered funding, undertaking research that is inherently time-sensitive)
- "...originate in a discipline for which external funding opportunities are limited

Proposal components

- Cover page
- Resubmissions: **Response to previous reviews** (1 page)
- **Description of proposed research** (6 pages)
- Budget table and justification (3 pages; use required template)
- CV(s), for PI and any Co-I(s) (2 pages each)
- Other research support (even you have none, for PI and any Co-I(s))
- Bibliography and References (2 pages)

Starting fall 2025, NO suggested reviewer memo

All Required,
All Important!

Description of proposed research (6 pages)

- A. Introduction and Rationale
- B. <u>Broader Impacts</u>
- C. Objectives
- D. <u>Procedure</u>
- E. <u>Time Schedule</u>
- F. Need for RRF Support

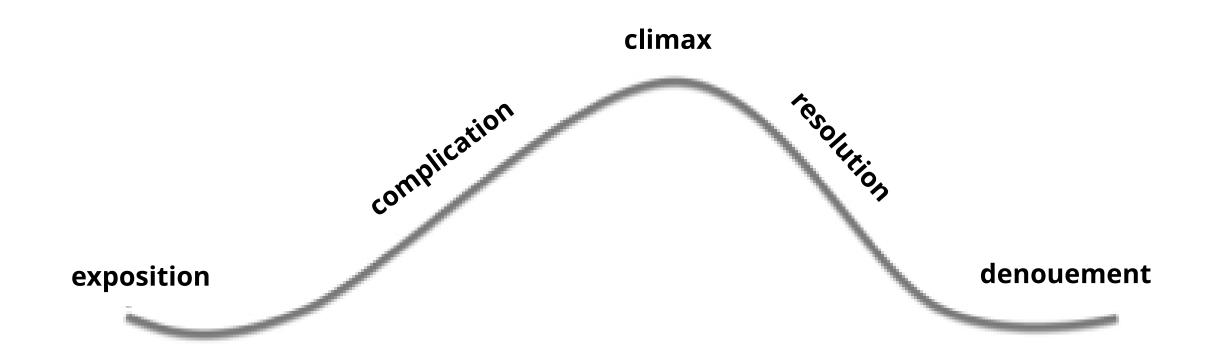
Section headings MUST appear exactly as above, in order; Do not include any other heading

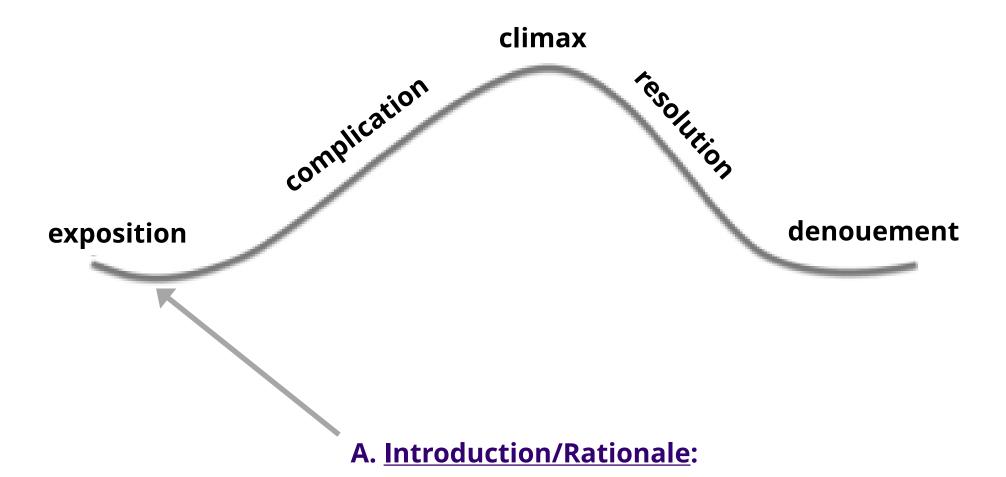
https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-for-applicants/application-instructions/#research

Conceptualizing your project

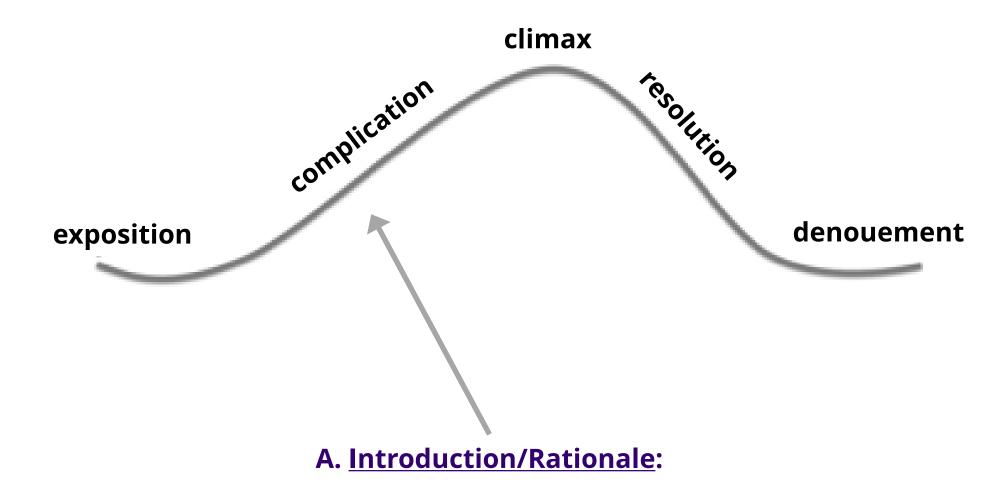
- Scope: 1-year
- **Discrete** project...
 - ...but clearly connected to long-term research agenda
- Focused on increasing competitiveness for future funding
 - ...and/or **your development** as a scholar / UW faculty

Think of the proposal's narrative arc...



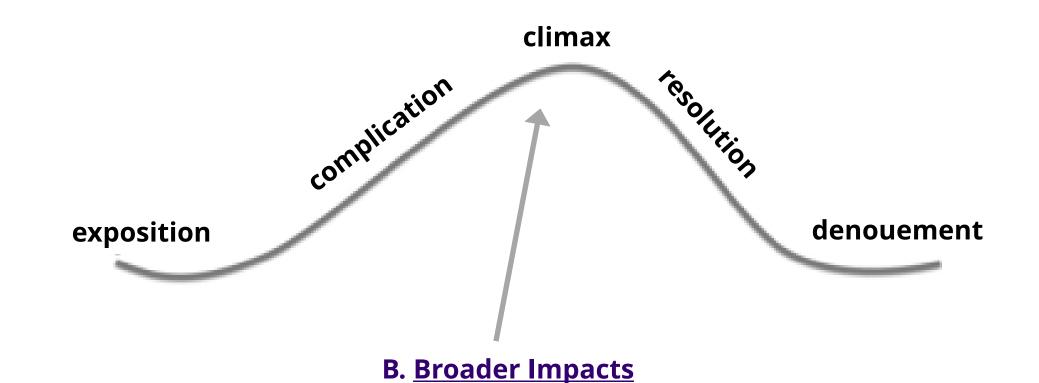


- Brief critical review of pertinent literature / theoretical background
- Justification for proposed research, including significance and potential impact
- Preliminary work (if any), results achieved (if any), prior publications (if any)



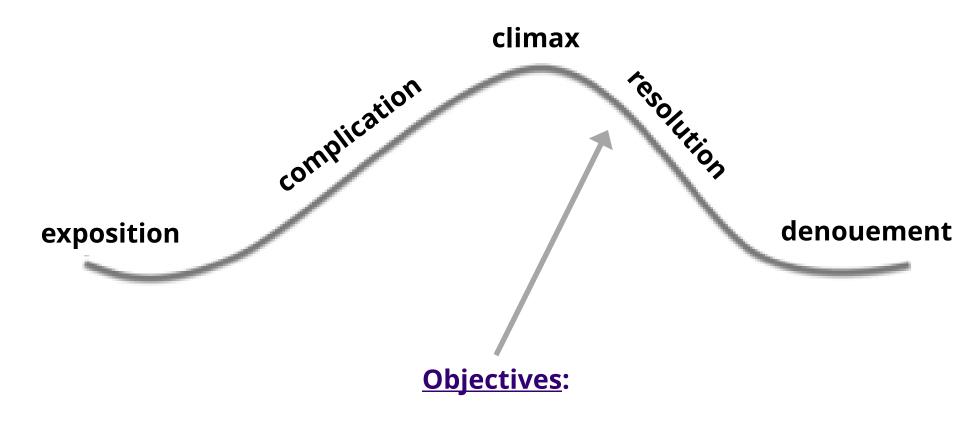
Successful proposals also...

...Clearly identify the critical gap in knowledge / theory / practice that the proposed work will fill



 How will the project contribute in substantive ways to the health, creativity, and productivity of the research ecosystem, as defined by the <u>UW Vision Statement</u>:

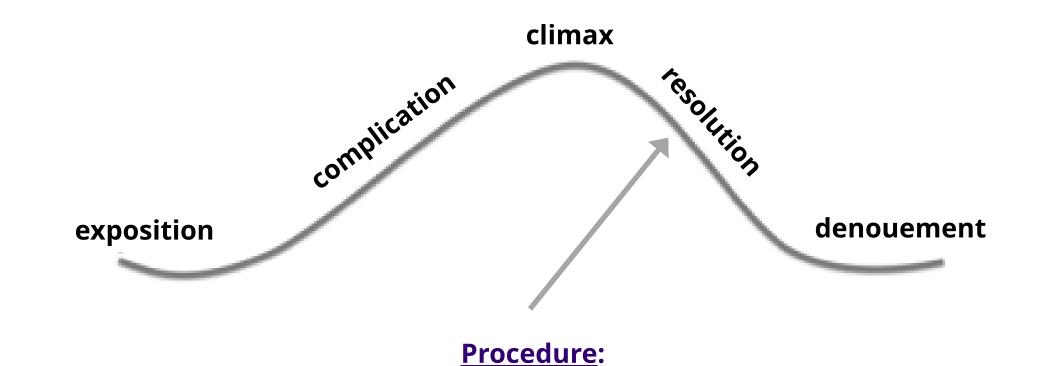
"We discover **timely solutions** to the world's most **complex problems** and **enrich lives** of people throughout our community, the state of Washington, the nation, and the world."



- What is the project designed to accomplish
- Successful proposals also...

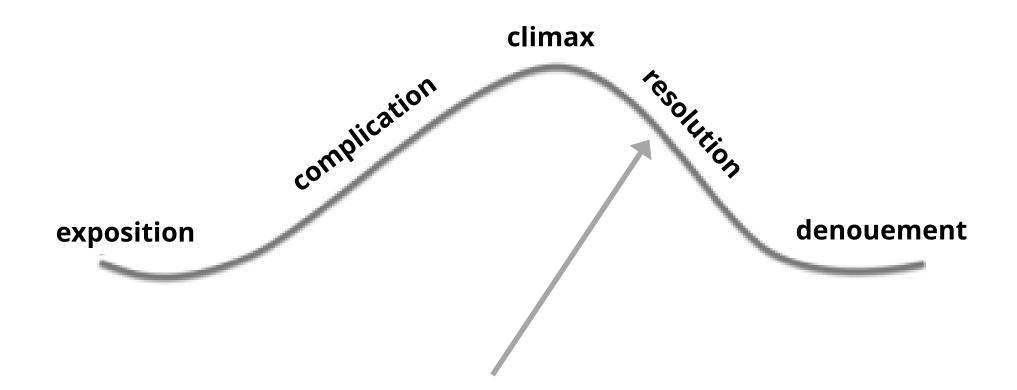
...Articulate a **clear connection between The Critical Gap** identified in the Introduction & Rationale and the stated objectives

...Describe objectives that are **specific & measurable**



- What methods / materials / tools will be used to meet the objectives?
- If access to a particular location/lab is required, indicate whether permission is secured
- Successful proposals also...

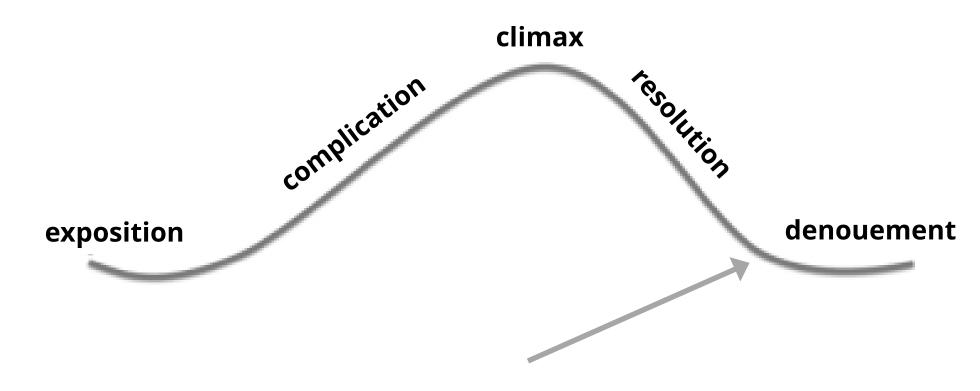
...Describe the **capacities** that position the PI / Co-Is to successfully execute



Time Schedule:

- How will proposed work be completed within 1-year?
- Successful proposals also...

...often include a **table** outlining key milestones (e.g. Gantt chart)



Need for RRF:

- How could the award lead to further outside funding or commercial applications?
- What **other efforts** have been made to find support for the projects?
- Document **teaching load** (if requesting release, i.e. submitting as "RRF Scholar")
- *In prior rounds*, successful proposals also...

...spoke to how the award would advance your overall research agenda and career trajectory

BUDGET

BUDGET

Budget

- Up to **\$40,000**
- Budget reductions sometimes occur
 - Request only what you really need
- Per RRF Office (9/2025), no changes *anticipated* to budget or budget decisions *but who knows?*

BUDGET

Allowable budget categories

- Faculty salary
 - 2 months summer ("standard") or release costs for 1 quarter ("scholar")
 - Summer salary <u>and</u> teaching release rare justify, identify priority
 - Faculty salary may <u>only</u> be requested for PI/co-I(s)
- Retirement and Benefits
- Research assistants Grad students / Undergrads
- Other staff
 - Technicians/Professional Staff: 2 months (if co-PI), by justification if not PI
 - Contractors/Consultants/Collaborators
- Travel (non-conference), supplies/materials, equipment
- Student aid/tuition, if applicable
- NO indirect costs

Process

- 1) eGC1 created in SAGE [Systems to Administer Grants Electronically] by UWTOR
- 2) Proposal documents attached to eGC1 as single PDF
- **3) Approvals via SAGE:** Dean/Director → UWT Fiscal Services → UWT Associate Vice Chancellor for Research → UW Seattle RRF Office
 - Plan time for review and approvals!
 - Get written approval for course release with Dean/Director before submission

The RRF Office strongly advises submitting 3-4 days in advance of deadline (by Sept 25th) – **PIs are required to submit to UWTOR by 5pm Wed, Sept 17**th

UWT Office of Research Timeline & Process

Key Deadlines

- By **Wed, Sept 10**th (5pm) PIs notify UWT Office of Research (UWTOR) of their intent to apply by completing the <u>Proposal Support Request Form</u>
- By **Wed, Sept 17**th PIs submit final proposal elements to UWTOR
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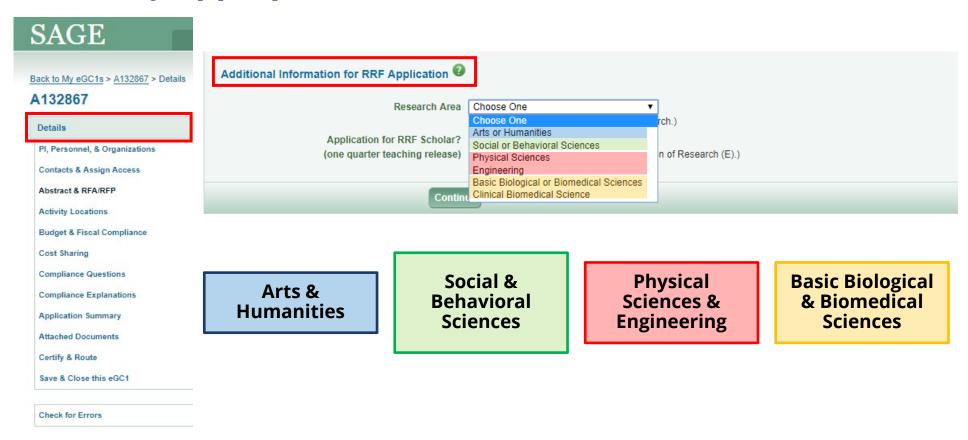
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Review & Submission Process

- UWTOR will finalize the eGC1 and budget and route to UWT approvers by Thurs, Sept 25th (5pm)
- RRF Office will pre-review proposals and provide any feedback on missing elements and/or
 questions via UWTOR between Thurs, Sept 25th and Mon, Sept 29th; Pls must be available to
 address any issues during that time
- Any necessary revisions must be completed by PIs through UWTOR by the RRF deadline,
 Mon, Sept 29th (5pm)

Identify appropriate "Research Area" in SAGE



Be strategic! Use committee member list as guide

Lorne Arnold, PhD

Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering & Technology

Current RRF Committee Member, Physical Sciences & Engineering Committee

Past RRF Awardee, Investigating the use of sliding block methods as an index for seismically induced rock slope failure volume - a proof of concept study (2022)

Despite changes, hallmarks of successful RRFs are likely to hold true:

- Keep in mind your target reviewer now only RRF committee members
 - → Inspect current member list to understand who might review your proposal
- Likely to be broadly literate with your discipline, but NOT a specialist in your field
 - → "imperative" to use accessible language that is "not dependent on subject matter expertise"
 - → Proposals that "rely on subject matter expertise" will be "less competitive"
 - → Ask non-specialist colleagues in your broad discipline to review
- Reviewers are busy academics just like you make it easy for them!
 - → Be explicit and clear **connect the dots**
 - → Use language that mirrors the review criteria
 - → Ask scientifically-literate colleagues *outside* of your discipline to review
- Request awarded proposals to understand "sweet spot"

Past RRF Awardees



→ UW Research → Office of Research Central → Royalty Research Fund (RRF) → For Awardees →

List of Awardees

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Download a spreadsheet of RRF Awards 2014 to the present.

June 2025 Awardees

· Ailion, Michael

Biochemistry

The role of the CCDC186 protein in paracrine signaling by beta cells \$40.000

Assaturian, Sosseh

Philosophy

Indexicals in Ancient Philosophy of Language

\$13,725

Bian, Yue

Bothell - Education

Short Stories about a Long Story: Learning to Teach as Transnational Teachers \$37,620

Bush, Matt

Chemistry

New Technology for Rapid Protein Stability Profiling

\$40,000

Chan, Karen

Oceanograph

Carapace of Dungeness Crab megalopae as a bioindicator of acidification \$39,975

Foy, Brody

Laboratory Medicine & Pathology



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

- Clearly distinguish between past and proposed activities, how proposed builds on previous
- What discrete outcome will RRF be able to point to as a result of the funding?

Be realistic about your scope with well-thought out plan of action

- Overly ambitious scope reads as though you don't know what you're doing
- Demonstrating that you have thought through details signals competency to execute

Be explicit about how you will achieve your objectives

RRF does not tend to fund things based on "trust me" procedures

Write (not adapt) for RRF, show how RRF will launch new directions (not maintain current)

For resubmissions: Demonstrate responsiveness

• Committee members get to know proposal and may advocate for it

- When possible, <u>specific</u> 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 CAREER"), and timeline ("in July 2027"), '...book proposal to specific publisher, by specific date
- Use "Need for RRF" to describe the career trajectory
 - Briefly/gently, how teaching/service loads have impacted research (as applicable)
- 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
- For community-engaged work
 - Emphasize theoretical contributions beyond particular site(s)
 - How community partnerships will be mutually-beneficial and lay foundations for future funding

Framing UW Tacoma context:

- Remind reviewers/committee (likely in "Need for RRF") of:
 - Predominantly undergraduates
 - Diverse student population Check for current: <u>https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/home/about-university-washington-tacoma</u>
 - Over 50% of undergrads First to College of First to Degree
 - Over 60% of undergrads are students of color
 - ~20% military-affiliated students
 - Anchor for South Sound rural communities

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 - Anchor for South Sound rural communities
- Emphasize undergraduate involvement (if applicable)
 - ...but realize that RRF is not intended as undergrad support grant
 - Focus remains on the <u>researcher</u> and their long-term trajectory

Prospective PIs encouraged to participate in upcoming RRF Office Hours

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WORKING WITH US

The UWT Office of Research is here to help!

- Notify UWTOR of your intention to submit by Wed, Sept 10th (5pm) via the <u>Proposal Support Request Form</u>
- UWTOR supports by:
 - Preparing the **eGC1**
 - Budget development support
 - Coordinating routing, submission, and responding to feedback from UW RRF Office
 - Proposal development and editing

Thank you! Questions?

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Cheryl Greengrove, PhD, UW Tacoma Associate Vice Chancellor for Research cgreen@uw.edu