

UW ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) INFO SESSION

Kara Luckey, PhD

Proposal Development Consultant

kluckey@uw.edu

29. January 2026

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

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- Overarching objectives remain the same, but **review criteria** changed slightly and **broader impacts** genericized
- **Eligibility** now limited to Assistant/Associate (no Full); more stringent adherence to requirement that applicants be **full-time** (no less than 100% FTE)

RRF OFFICE HOURS

Changes are still new and nuances are developing - **Join office hours:**

- **Fri, Feb 13th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/96569804750>

- **Wed, Feb 18th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/93785816473>

- **Wed, Feb 25th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/97590182622>

FAQs compiled from prior office hours:

<https://www.washington.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/RRF-FAQs-9.19.25.pdf>

THE BASICS

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**



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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.”*



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

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

THE BASICS

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

THE BASICS

Budget

- Historically, ~\$1 million per cycle (UW royalty and licensing fees) -
 - *Could see fewer funds available (won't know until April 2026)*
- 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

THE BASICS

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

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- **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, acting, affiliate, visiting

**full-time = no less than 100% FTE (no exceptions)*

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- Eligible faculty for whom salary is requested **must be** PI/Co-I
- **No “honorary” Co-Is**, must have a “measurable role” – Co-I is equivalent role to PI

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- **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

**full-time = no less than 100% FTE (no exceptions)*

THE BASICS

Eligibility & Guidelines

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Role	Can be PI or Co-I	Can receive salary support
<u>Professorial Faculty</u> (Assistant or Associate, including Research, Teaching, Clinical Practice, and WOT) Full-Time (100%)	Yes	Yes, if PI or Co-I
Professional Staff Full-Time (100%) With PI Status	Yes	Yes

- All PIs and Co-Is must meet all eligibility requirements in the table above on the submission deadline and for the duration of the award period. Eligibility will be verified.
- 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, Seattle Children's Hospital, or VA Puget Sound), all of their extramural grants must be administered by their UW department 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
Full Professors (see NOTE below)	No	No
Faculty with any of the following appointments: non-professorial, part-time (less than 100%), temporary, acting, clinical (annual term), affiliate, visiting, emeritus	No	No
Professional Staff Part-time (less than 100%), 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 full Professors (including Research, Teaching, Clinical Practice, and WOT) will be considered.
- This fund does not support independent research projects undertaken by graduate students or postdoctoral scholars.

THE BASICS

Eligibility – Other Details

- A PI or co-I may submit **(1) proposal per round**
- PIs and Co-Is 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

THE BASICS

Deadlines

- Solicited twice a year
- Due by **5pm** on:
 - The first Monday in March (**Monday, March 2, 2026**)
 - The last Monday in September (**Monday, September 28, 2026**)
- Awards announced by January 15 / June 15

The RRF Office strongly advises submitting 3-4 days in advance of deadline (by Thurs, Feb 26th)

***Applicants must submit final proposal elements to UWT Office of Research by
Wed, Feb 18th***



OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Faculty Research Profiles Submitting a Proposal? Quick Links Events & Due Dates RRF Funding Opportunity

ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) OPPORTUNITY

Please note that UWT RRF submissions have an earlier deadline than the deadline posted on the main UW webpage:

UWT RRF Submission Timeline and Process:

- At least 12 business days prior to the RRF Submission Deadline please notify UWT Office of Research (UWTOR) of Intent to Apply - fill out online form [here](#). **Spring 2026: Friday, February 13th**
- 10 Business Days prior to the RRF Submission Deadline - ALL final proposal requirements due to UWTOR for review and UWT internal eGC1 routing (PLEASE NOTE: All RRF proposals from UW Tacoma MUST route through the UWT Office of Research for review and submission through UW's grant processing system, SAGE, and require Dean/Director approval. **Spring 2026: Wednesday, February 18th**
- 3 business days prior to the RRF Submission Deadline UWTOR will submit proposals through an eGC1 to RRF for review. This will give PIs time to address any questions or recommended changes before final submission. **Spring 2026: Thursday, February 26th**

How UWTOR Will Help Support Your RRF Proposal Submission:

- Manage eGC1 process in SAGE (UW's Grant Management System):
- Review for RRF eligibility/compliance.
- Support project budget development; Compile and review all proposal documents.
- Coordinate with collaborators and subawardees to collect and verify required elements (if applicable.)
- Confirm project team required training and attestations.
- Route, submit eGC1 with proposal documents, and address feedback from UWT and RRF approvers.
- Complete final submission via SAGE to RRF.

For questions, please contact us at uwtor@uw.edu.

Recent changes to the RRF Process (Fall 2025):

- Faculty eligibility is now limited to Assistant and Associate Professors (including Research, Teaching, and WOT faculty). Full Professors are no longer eligible to submit new proposals.
- Co-Is (formerly Co-PIs) are considered equal in status to the PI and must have a measurable role in the project. Including more than one Co-I requires justification.
- We now ask for a Lay Summary - rather than an abstract - on the proposal cover page.
- Zoom office hours to support applicant teams will be scheduled the month before the submission deadline.

For more application information, click the button below to be directed to the main RRF webpage.

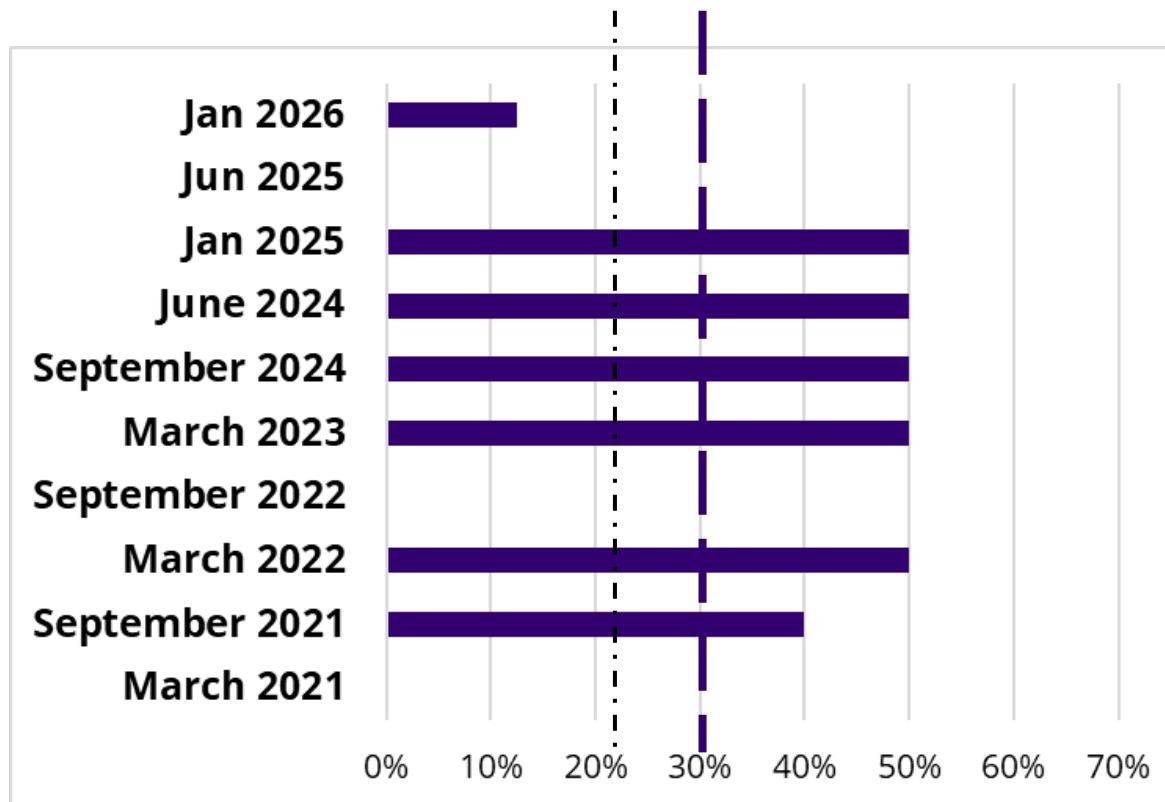
ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) >

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf-opportunity>

THE BASICS

Broad Funding Patterns

- Average tri-campus award rate: Historically =23-26%; Jan 2026 awards = **21%**
- Tacoma average (last 10 rounds): **30%** (ranges from 0-50%)



June 2025 awards:

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

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

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- 1) Proposals is assigned to one of **(4) RRF committees**

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

RRF Program Committee Chair

Professor Patricia A. Kramer, UW Anthropology

**Physical
Sciences &
Engineering**

**Biological &
Biomedical
Sciences**

**Arts &
Humanities**

**Social &
Behavioral
Sciences**

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Each committee 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

Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Allergy & Infectious Disease
Biology
Earth and Space Sciences
Environmental and Occupational Health & Pharmacology
General Internal Medicine & Global Health
Medicinal Chemistry
Metabolism, Endocrinology & Nutrition
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Oral Health Sciences
Rehabilitation Medicine
Speech & Hearing Sciences

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
Child, Family & Population Health Nursing
Economics
Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences*
Psychology
Speech & Hearing Sciences
Sociology
Sociology & Statistics

***UW Tacoma Member**

****UW Bothell Member**

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

[Home](#) > [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

Royalty Research Fund (RRF)

Current Committee Members

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 \(*restricted\)](#)

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS (NEW)

Introduced in Sept 2025; **remains the same for March 2026:**

- 1) Proposals is assigned to one of **(4) RRF committees**
- 2) Committee members assigned to review 5-6 proposals;
Asked to assess 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**
- 3) Initial '**triage**' meeting: Committee briefly discusses each proposal and votes to identify the "**most competitive**"

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS (NEW)

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- 4) “Most competitive” proposals **reviewed by all committee members**
- 5) Second **decision meeting:** Committee discusses “most competitive,” **makes funding recommendations** to RRF Chair

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- 4) “Most competitive” proposals **reviewed by all committee members**
- 5) Second **decision meeting**: Committee discusses “most competitive,” **makes funding recommendations** to RRF Chair
 - **No** “outside” reviewers,
 - **No** numerical scoring
 - Reviewers **do not** provide written feedback;
 - Applicants instead are provided with a **summary of committee discussion**

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(2) Merit

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*Clues from “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*

REVIEW CRITERIA

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

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Now generalized – **Likelihood of advancing the UW Vision Statement:**

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Proposals submitted by **Associate Professors** –
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“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 one-time or infrequently-offered funding, undertaking research that is inherently time-sensitive)*
- *“...originate in a discipline for which **external funding opportunities are limited***

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

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Proposal components

- **Cover page**, with 300 word 'lay summary' (1 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)) (2 pages each)
- **Bibliography and References** (2 pages)

*All Required,
All Important!*

*****Starting fall 2025, NO suggested reviewer memo*****

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 Support

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

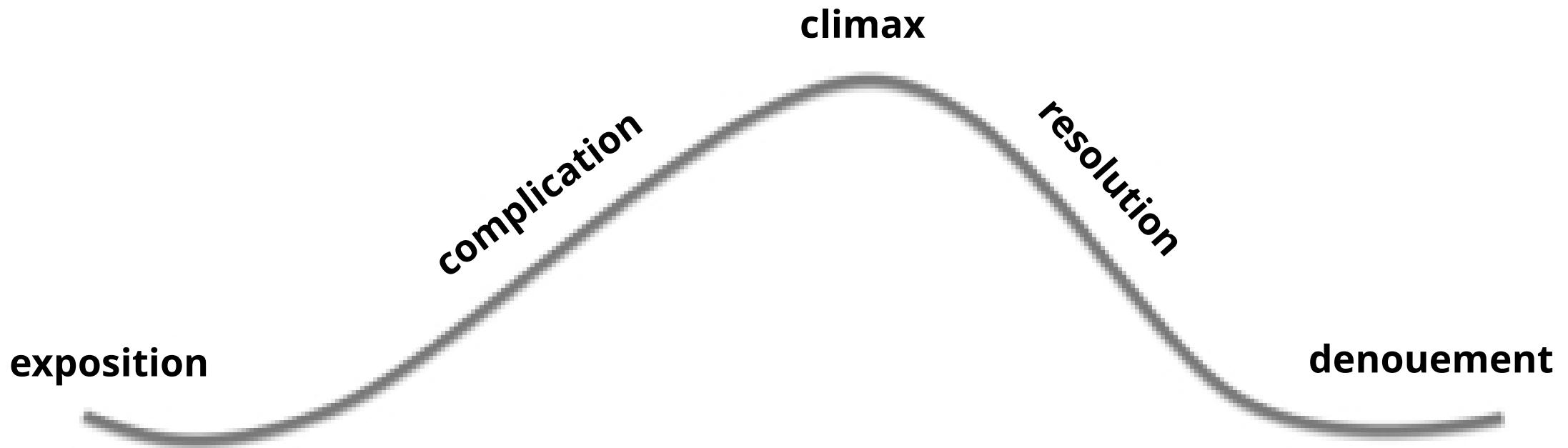
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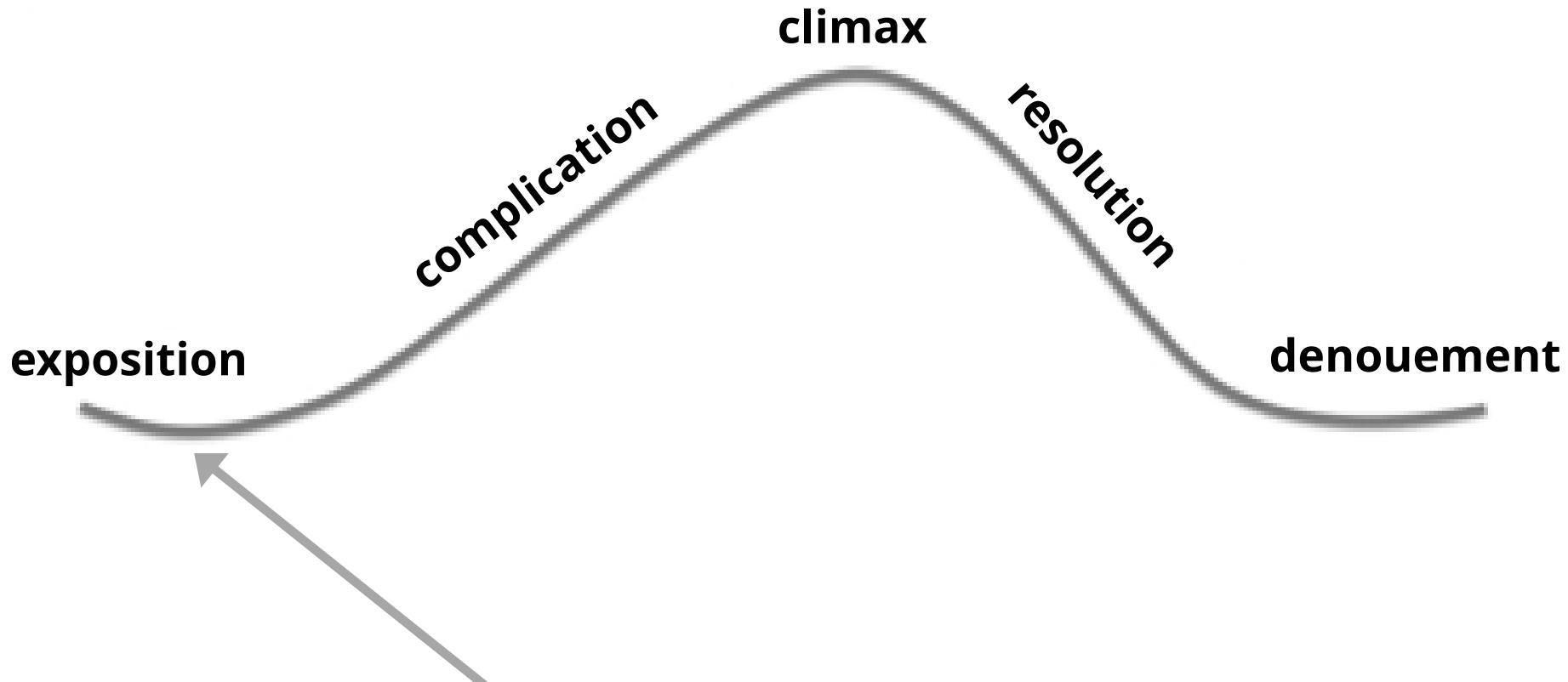
Conceptualizing your project

- 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

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

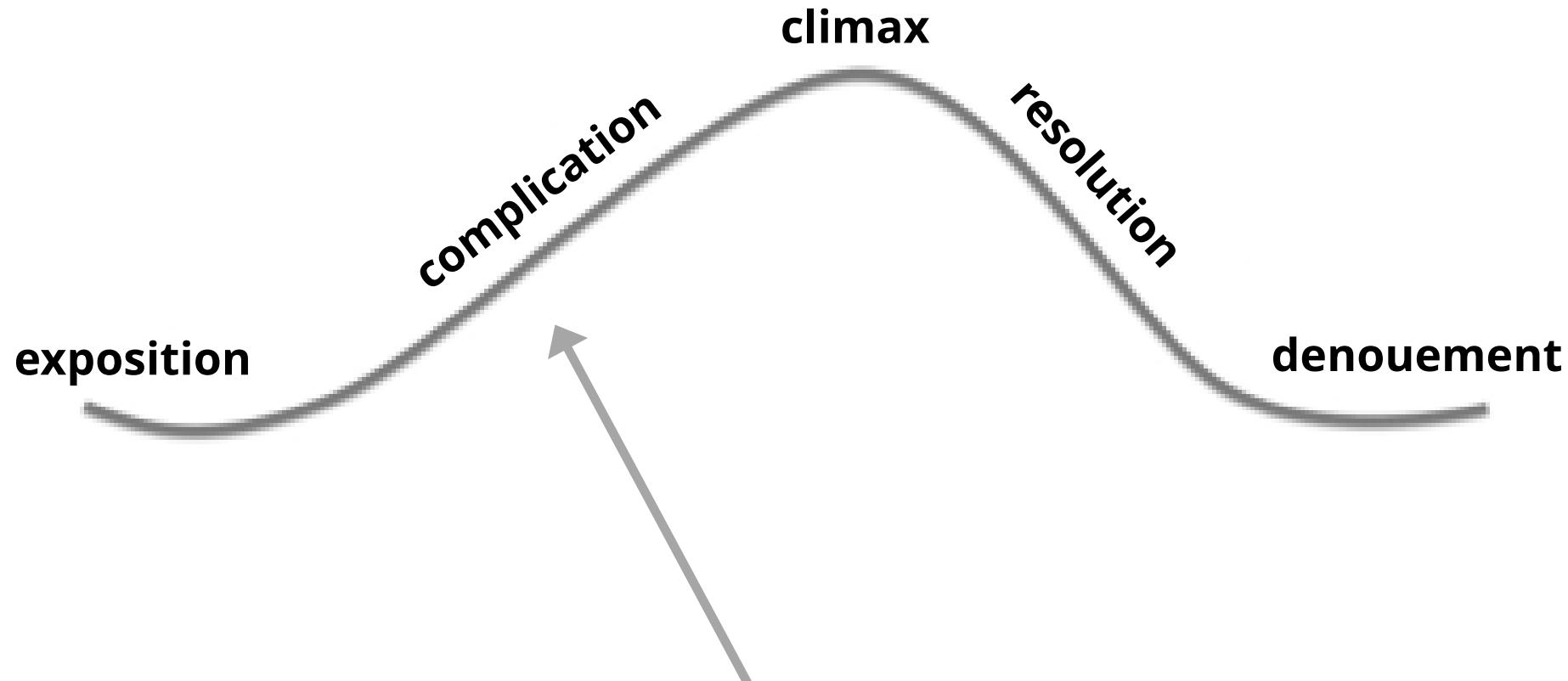
Think of the proposal's narrative arc...





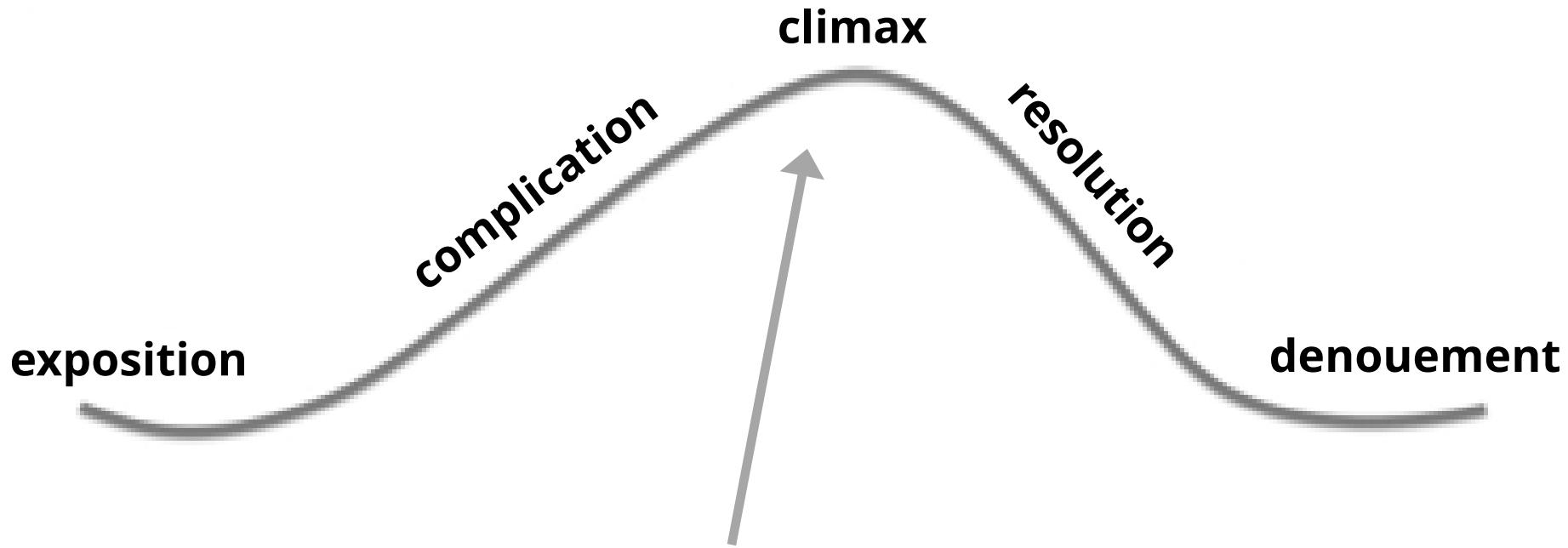
A. Introduction/Rationale:

- *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...*

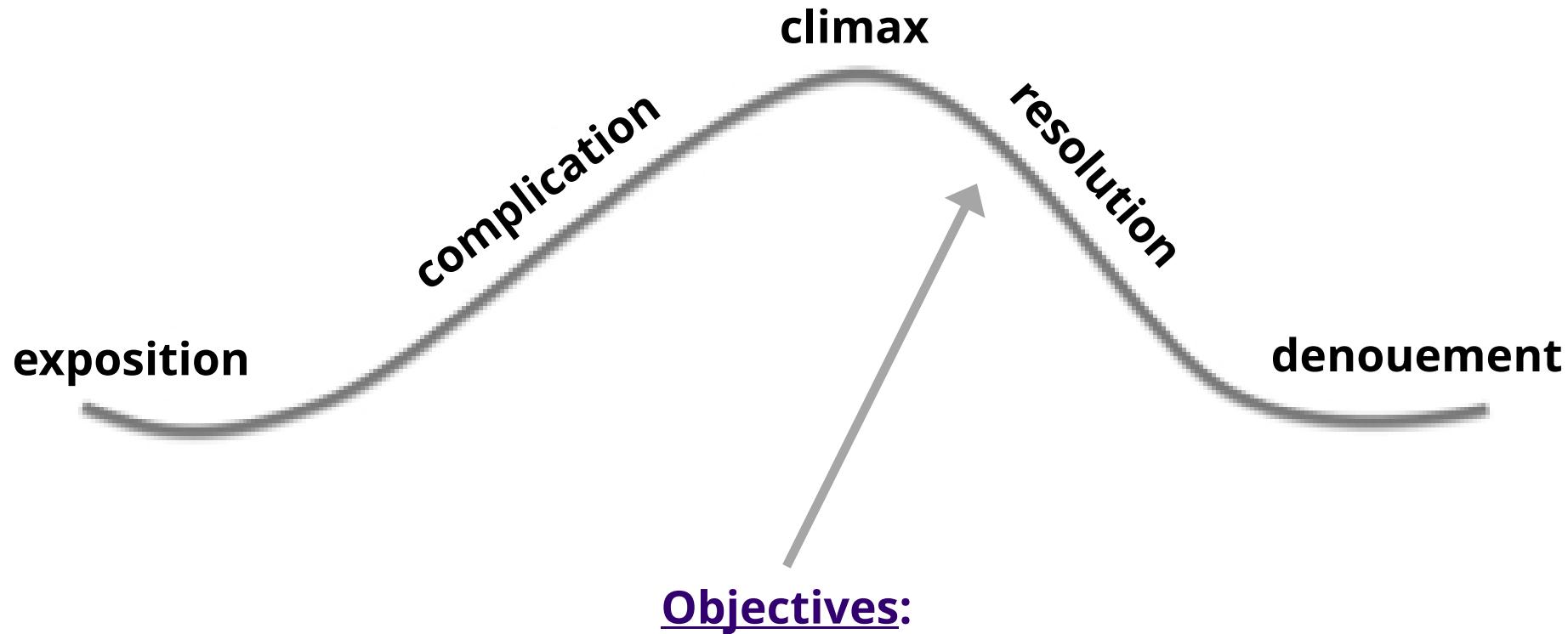
*...Clearly identify the **critical gap in knowledge / theory / practice** that the proposed work will fill*



B. Broader Impacts

- How will the project contribute in **substantive ways** to the health, creativity, and productivity of **the research ecosystem**, as defined by the [UW Vision Statement](#):

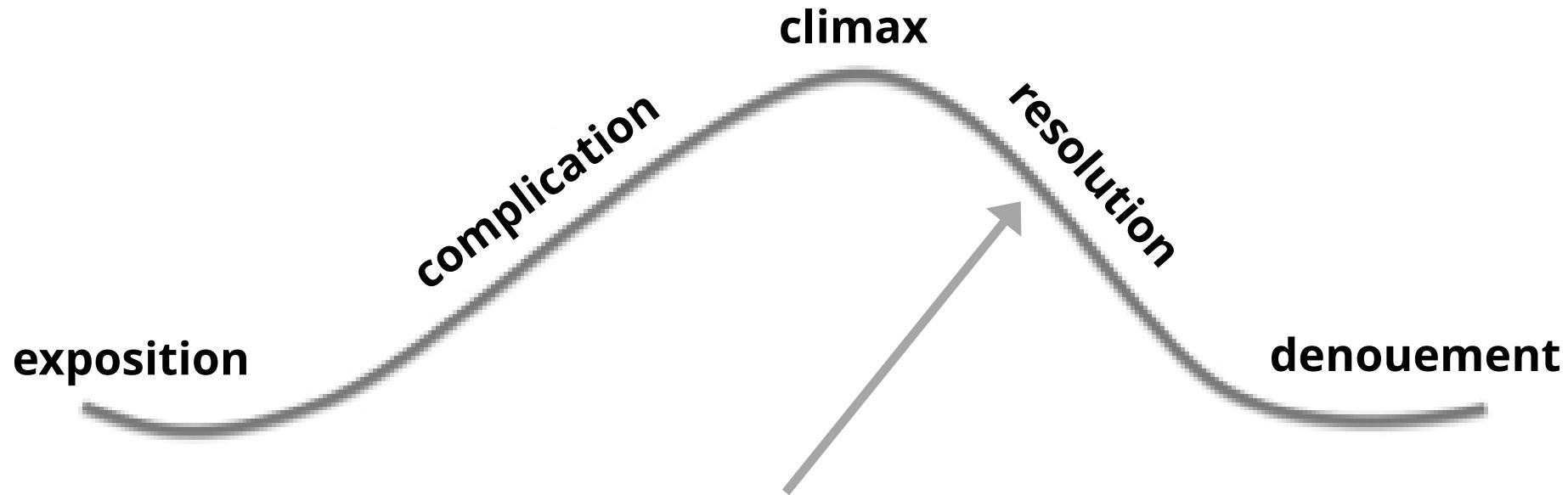
*"We discover **timely solutions** to the world's most **complex problems** and **enrich lives** of people throughout our community, the state of Washington, the nation, and the world."*



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

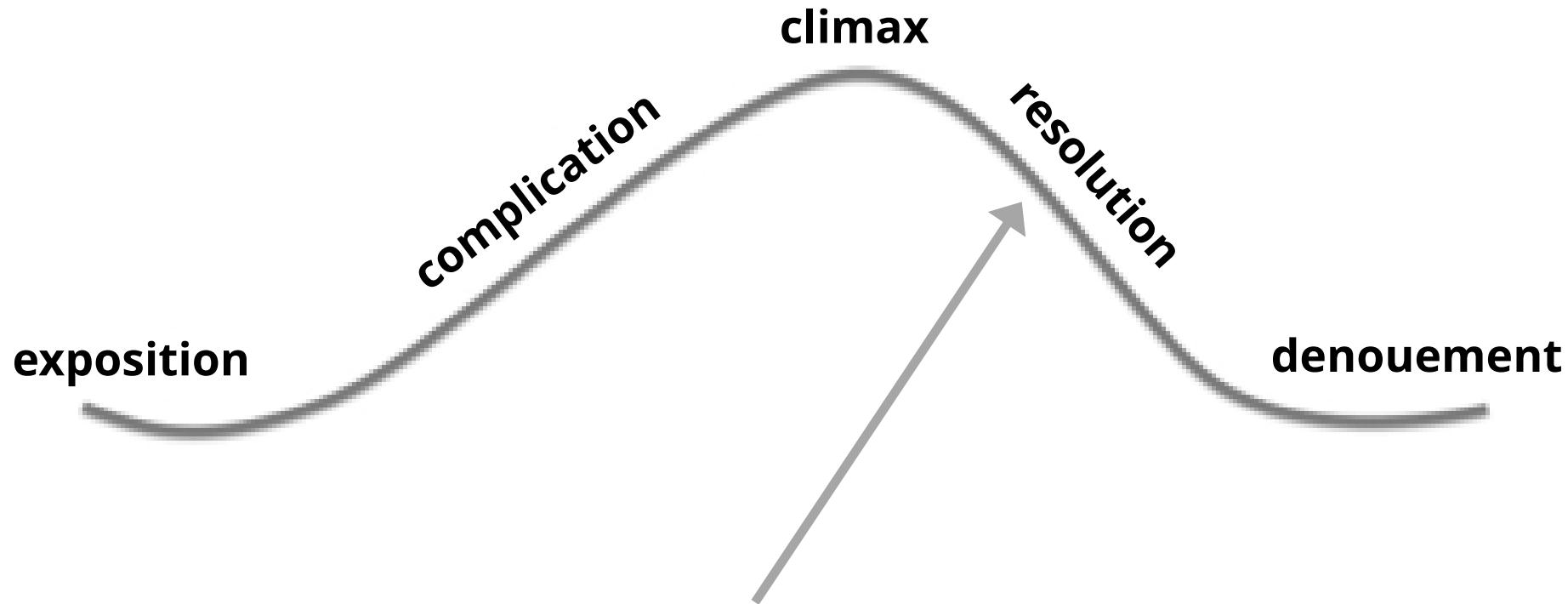
*...Articulate a **clear connection between The Critical Gap** identified in the Introduction & Rationale and the stated objectives*

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



Procedure:

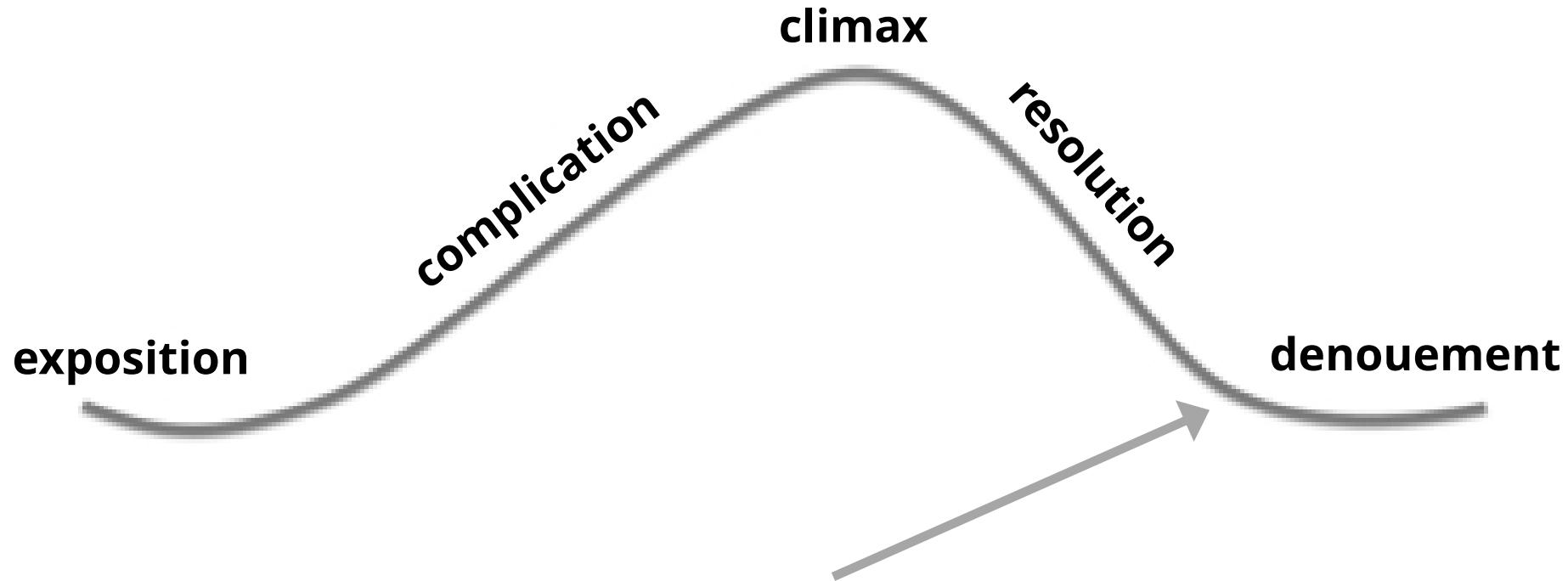
- *What methods / materials / tools will be used to meet the objectives?*
- *If access to a particular location/lab is required, indicate whether permission is secured*
- *Successful proposals also...*
...Describe the capacities that position the PI / Co-Is to successfully execute



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

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Budget

- Up to **\$40,000**
- Budget reductions have occurred, but not recently
 - **Request only what you *really* need**
- Per RRF Office (1/2026), 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 and teaching release rare – justify, identify priority
 - Faculty salary may only 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**

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

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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 Feb 26th) -

PIs are required to submit to UWTOR by Wed, Feb 18th

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

UWT Office of Research Timeline & Process

Key Deadlines

- By **Fri, Feb 13th** – PIs notify UWT Office of Research (UWTOR) of their intent to apply by completing the [Proposal Support Request Form](#)
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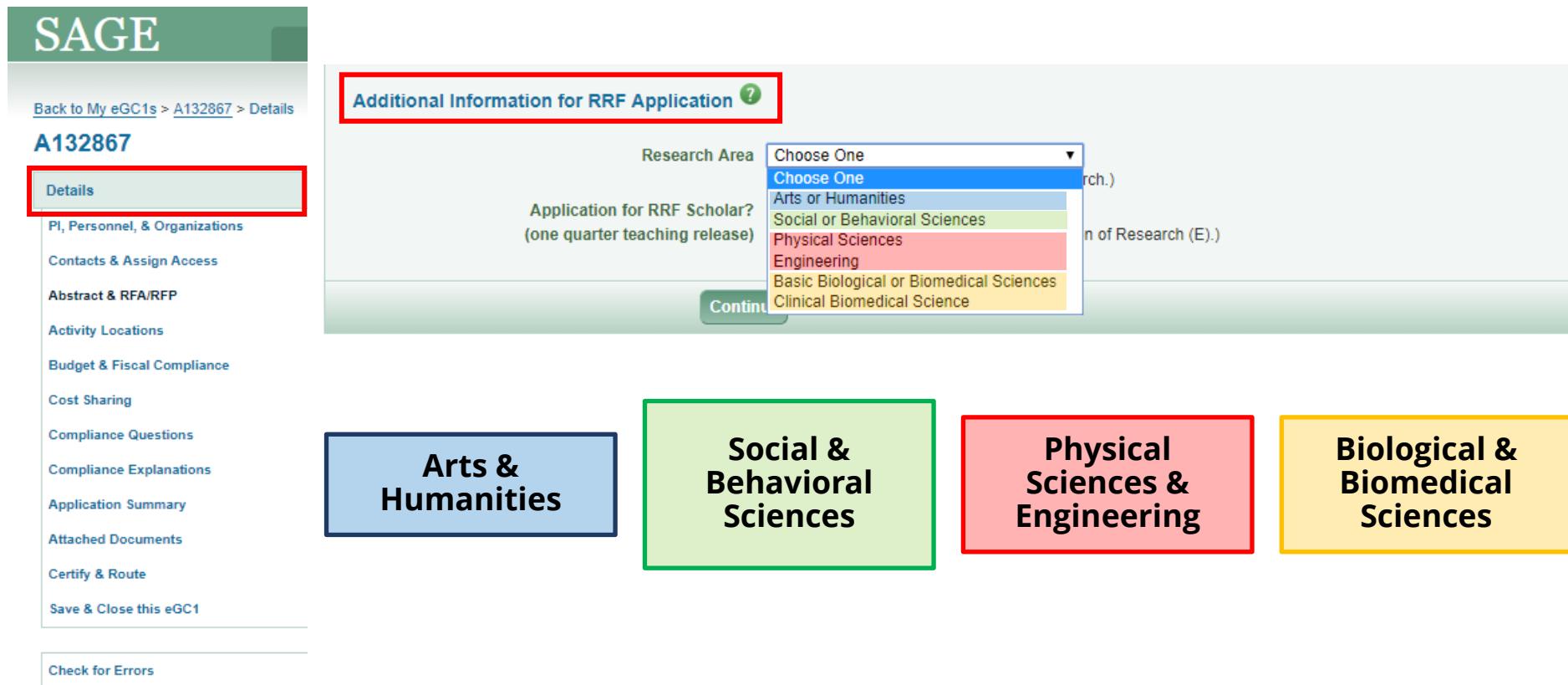
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Review & Submission Process

- UWTOR will finalize the eGC1 and budget and route to UWT approvers by **Thurs, Feb 26th**
- RRF Office will pre-review proposals and provide any feedback on missing elements and/or questions via UWTOR **between Thurs, Feb 26th and Mon, March 2nd**; PIs 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, March 2nd (5pm)**

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate “Research Area” in SAGE



The screenshot shows the SAGE proposal submission interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various proposal components: Back to My eGC1s, A132867 (highlighted), Details (highlighted with a red box), 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; and a Check for Errors button at the bottom.

The main content area is titled "Additional Information for RRF Application" and contains a "Research Area" dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:

- Choose One (highlighted with a blue box)
- Arts or Humanities
- Social or Behavioral Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Engineering
- Basic Biological or Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Biomedical Science

Below the dropdown, a "Continu" button is visible. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a "n of Research (E.)" text field.

Below the main content area, four colored boxes represent the research areas:

- Arts & Humanities (blue box)
- Social & Behavioral Sciences (green box)
- Physical Sciences & Engineering (red box)
- Biological & Biomedical Sciences (yellow box)

Be strategic! Use committee member list as guide

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RRF

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

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RRF

Past RRF Awardees

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

[List of Awardees](#)

List of Awardees

Download a spreadsheet of [RRF Awards 2014 to the present](#).

January 2026 Awardees

- **Calvi, Paolo**
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Development of a Degrading Crack Model for Direct Crack-Based Assessment of Damaged Reinforced Concrete Structures
\$40,000
- **Cha, Hyungmin**
Sociology
From Shelter to Survival: Homelessness as a Life Course Health Risk
\$40,000
- **Chen, Mo**
Materials Science and Engineering
Extending the reach of atomic-scale-defect sensing
\$40,000
- **De La Cruz, Sonia**
Tacoma Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Framing Change: Critical Media Praxis in Storytelling
\$22,808
RRF Scholar
- **Dorn, Charles**
Aeronautics and Astronautics
Guided Wave Based Damage Detection in Metamaterials
\$39,997

For Awardees



List of Awardees

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 \(*restricted\)](#)

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For resubmissions: Demonstrate responsiveness

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

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RRF

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 - 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

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- For **community-engaged work**
 - Emphasize theoretical contributions beyond particular site(s)
 - How community partnerships will be mutually-beneficial and lay foundations for future funding

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RRF

Framing UW Tacoma context:

- Remind reviewers/committee (likely in “Need for RRF”) of:
 - Predominantly undergraduates
 - Diverse student population

Check for current: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/home/about-university-washington-tacoma>

- *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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- 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

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- Regardless, **resubmit!**
 - ~70% of successful UWT proposals awarded upon resubmission

WORKING WITH US

The UWT Office of Research is here to help!

- **Notify UWTOR** of your intention to submit by **Friday, Feb 13th** via the Proposal Support Request Form
- **UWTOR supports by:**
 - Preparing the **eGC1**
 - **Budget** development support
 - **Coordinating routing, submission, and responding to feedback** from UW RRF Office
 - **Proposal development** and **editing**

RRF OFFICE HOURS

Prospective PIs encouraged to participate in upcoming RRF Office Hours

- **Fri, Feb 13th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/96569804750>

- **Wed, Feb 18th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/93785816473>

- **Wed, Feb 25th 1-2p**
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/97590182622>

FAQs compiled from prior office hours:

<https://www.washington.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/RRF-FAQs-9.19.25.pdf>

Thank you! Questions?

Kara Luckey, PhD, Proposal Development Consultant

kluckey@uw.edu

Yoko Furukawa, PhD, Director

yokofur@uw.edu

Karen Urlie, Program Operations Specialist

kurlie@uw.edu

Kelly Dyer, Program Operations Specialist

kddyer@uw.edu

Cheryl Greengrove, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

cgreen@uw.edu