

University Central Research Scholar Grants Program: Announcing the 2009-2010 Competition

The University Central Research Scholar Grants (RSG) Program encourages original, innovative scholarship by faculty working on research for which the opportunities for extramural funding are limited. The program is open to faculty members working in such areas who hold full-time tenured or tenure-track appointments in University Central and to faculty members holding equivalent ranks in the Blair School of Music. ***Faculty members conducting research for which appreciable extramural financial support is available through NSF, NIH, Departments of Defense and Education and similar agencies are referred to the opportunities provided by the University Central Discovery Grant Program.***

The Research Scholar Grants (RSG) Program invites applications from faculty proposing research of the highest quality. The RSG Program seeks specifically to encourage humanistic research (as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities), humanistic or humanities-led cross-disciplinary inquiry, and research that generates nontraditional research products in those areas, but the scope of the program is not limited exclusively to research in or associated with the humanities. For an application to be successful, the work proposed must show a clear potential to enhance the scholarly reputation of those involved and to enhance the scholarly profile and visibility of Vanderbilt University.

This year's RSG Program continues last year's new funding category, the Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Research Grant (CIRG). Details are provided below, but a key element of this category is that it involves a **pre-proposal stage** with a preliminary deadline different from the other categories. Full proposals for the CIRG are **by invitation only**. More generally, proposals (or pre-proposals, as indicated) are invited in any of six categories of support (see descriptions below); competition is keen in each category. Proposals to contribute to organizing and/or hosting conferences will not be considered within the RSG Program (see the Provost's Sept. 1, 2004, memo on conference support, posted on the DSR website).

Funds can be used to support faculty salaries in the Undergraduate Research Supervision Grant (#3), Research Scholar Fellowship (#4) and Summer Stipend (#5) categories, but not in the other three categories. In any given year, a faculty member may submit up to two proposals, with no more than one proposal in any single category (see descriptions below). Awards in all categories are normally made for one year, but the program will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for two consecutive years of funding in the Faculty Development Grant category. Two-year awards will be made only in the most compelling cases. The six categories are described below. Funding for all awards will become available **on or after July 1, 2010**.

1. Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Research Grants (CIRG) will be awarded to seed research involving a small number of faculty members (typically two to four) from different fields, generally from different departments or schools. The aim of this component of the Research Scholar Grant Program is to involve scholars and specialists from different fields in collaborative exploration of an important topic. The primary goal of this collaboration will be to produce jointly authored articles, monographs or similar professionally recognized publications. A secondary goal will be to lay the foundation for the preparation and submission of a significant proposal to a foundation or other granting agency. Awards normally will be for one year; a maximum of two years of continuous funding will be considered if the circumstances are particularly compelling. (**Please note:** Pre-proposals in

this category are due by 5:00 pm on **October 23, 2009**. Full proposals will be *by invitation only*.)

2. Faculty Development Grants are intended to provide funds for an individual investigator (or possibly more than one faculty member in the same department or field) to explore a new area or aspect of disciplinary research, to rethink the parameters of his or her work, to develop a novel research method, or for study leading to a nontraditional research product. The program also will consider in this category requests for support of traditional research of the highest quality and requests for financial assistance with the publication of an important book. Faculty members are expected to propose work for which full support from the school or college is not already in place or available, although the program will consider requests for shared program-and-school support. Awards normally will be for one year; a maximum of two years of continuous funding will be considered if the circumstances are particularly compelling. (Completed applications in this category are due by 5:00 pm on **January 11, 2010**.)
3. Undergraduate Research Supervision Grants (URSG) encourage faculty members eligible for RSG Program support to work with undergraduates under the umbrella of the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSRSP). Details about the VUSRSP can be found at <http://vusrp.vanderbilt.edu/>. To receive an award, an eligible faculty member must submit a URSG application by the deadline (see below) and must serve as the named faculty sponsor for a successful VUSRSP application. More details can be found on the attached instruction sheet. (Completed applications in this category are due by 5:00 pm on **March 8, 2010**.)
4. Research Scholar Fellowships will be awarded to provide partial salary support for a second semester of leave. To be eligible for an award, a faculty member must have been granted two semesters of approved leave, one semester of which must be a leave with full pay. These two semesters of leave are expected to be contiguous. Stipends are not to exceed one-third of a faculty member's annual base salary, up to a maximum of \$30,000 (plus fringe benefits, when not covered by other sources). The proposed budget should *include* the cost of the fringe-benefits associated with the salary request, if needed. **Important note:** Because this program has become increasingly competitive, priority consideration for awards will be given to individuals who apply *in addition* for extramural support for the second semester of leave. If external support for the second semester of leave is awarded to the recipient of a Research Scholar Fellowship, the RSG Program will continue to provide salary support with the limitation that the faculty member cannot receive more than one-half of his/her annual base salary. However, the recipient of that external support will be eligible, upon request, for an additional grant of up to \$5,000 for direct (non-salary) support of research expenses as justified by the faculty member's work during that second-semester leave. Applications in this category will be strengthened considerably if the proposing faculty member defines and proposes a high-quality product that will result from a year-long leave. (Note: *the annual base salary* is the amount Vanderbilt pays for services rendered during the nine-month academic year.) (Completed applications in this category are due by 5:00 pm on **January 11, 2010**.)

5. Summer Stipends of \$6,000 (plus fringe benefits, if applicable) will be awarded each year on a competitive basis to Vanderbilt faculty who propose summer research of exceptional quality or promise. All Summer Stipend awards will be made only for a single year. (Completed applications in this category are due by 5:00 pm on **January 11, 2010**.)
6. The Research Scholar Grants Program emphasizes study, investigation and scholarship, but a limited number of Lectures and/or Symposia will be sponsored by the program when the associated proposals make convincing cases for positive impacts on the intellectual environment at Vanderbilt and on research conducted by the faculty. For example, a symposium or lecture series might bring to the campus experts in several fields with the intent of catalyzing interdisciplinary research in an area new to Vanderbilt. Suggestions for speakers who would be of interest within or across disciplines in humanistic studies are solicited by the program in this category. (Completed applications in this category are due by 5:00 pm on **January 11, 2010**.)

Applications and instructions for the 2009/10 competitions can be found on the web-site for the Division of Sponsored Research (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/dsr/intramural.php>). Completed applications (all categories) must be received in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, 221 Kirkland Hall, by the deadlines indicated above. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members from University Central. Additional information and/or the names of suggested external reviewers might be requested later, if needed. Awards in all categories will take effect **on or after July 1, 2010**. Questions about this program should be directed to Heidi Basgall (ext. 2-6067, heidi.a.basgall@vanderbilt.edu) or Professor Dennis G. Hall, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School (ext. 2-2809, dennis.g.hall@vanderbilt.edu).

UNIVERSITY CENTRAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS GRANT (RSG) PROGRAM

Application Cover Page

Application Category: (Check one)

- Interdisciplinary Research Grant (*New Program*) _____
- Faculty Development Grant _____
- Undergraduate Research Supervision Grant _____
- Research Scholar Fellowship _____
- Summer Stipends _____
- Lectures and Symposia _____

Title of the Proposed Research: _____

Faculty Participating in the Research (For research involving several faculty members, list *first* the faculty member who will lead the collaboration):

| Name | Department and School | Academic Rank | Campus Phone | e-mail Address |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Budget Information:

Amount Requested _____

Requested Project Period: July 1, 2010 to _____

Signature of Principal Investigator _____

Date _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (all RSG program elements):
INFORMATION TO INCLUDE

Each faculty submitter or collaborator should provide a no-more-than-two-page summary of his/her background, including at least the following:

1. Education (degrees, years, and institutions)
2. Postdoctoral positions (years and locations)
3. Academic, research or professional positions held (years, institutions, titles)
4. Distinctions such as Awards, Honors, Fellowships
5. Titles and related information for publications or other scholarly work including monographs, edited volumes, book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, exhibits, performances, etc.
6. Evidence of extramural support you have received to support your research.

This two-page CV must be prepared in list-oriented format, not as a narrative. Other items may be included, as appropriate, but within the two-page limit.

COLLABORATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANTS
GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING PRE-PROPOSALS

This component (only) of the Research Scholar Grant (RSG) Program will proceed in two stages. After a general call for pre-proposals (announced here), a subset of those submitting pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals to compete for funding. The invitations will include information about the content of those proposals and the deadline for receiving them. Requests for support during a leave may not be made via the Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Research component of the RSG Program. Leave support should be requested through the Research Scholar Fellowship component of the RSG Program. Pre-proposals are due by 5:00 pm on October 23, 2009.

1. Cover Page. Complete the cover page provided and indicate Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Research Grants as the category. The title of the investigation should be concise but descriptive. Please provide information about all personnel associated with the proposal, identifying clearly the faculty member(s) who will lead the collaboration and serve as the point-of-contact for those administering the Research Scholar Grants Program.
2. Proposed Research. This section should be written for an individual who is not an expert in the field. At minimum, it should clearly identify the topic and explain both its significance and how it will be explored. There is a two-page limit for this section; pages should be single-spaced and have one-inch margins.
3. Rationale. Please provide an explanation of the value added by the intended collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. The Rationale should also indicate the expected outcomes (a jointly authored book or article, e.g.). There is a one-page limit for this section.
4. Proposed Expenditures and Justification. Provide a one-page summary of the intended budget, showing major funding categories and expected allocation of funds. Note: If you are requesting funding for two years you must provide a strong justification for that support in this section.
5. Biographical Information. Please provide a two-page biographical summary (list format, not narrative) for each participating faculty member. The summary should include the items requested specifically on the sheet titled "Biographical Sketch."

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. **Cover Page.** Complete the cover page provided and indicate Faculty Development Grant as the category. The title of the investigation should be concise but descriptive. Please provide information about all personnel associated with the proposal, identifying clearly the faculty member who will lead the collaboration and serve as the point-of-contact for those administering the Research Scholar Grants Program.
2. **Proposed Research.** This section should be written for an individual who is not an expert in the field. Describe the proposed research and include any supporting data, as appropriate. Define the specific aims or goals of the research, describe the methods to be used to accomplish your goals, and state clearly the significance of the research. There is a three-page limit for this section; pages should be single-spaced and have one-inch margins.
3. **Rationale.** Please describe how the proposed research meets the goals of this category of the program. How will the proposed project further your development as a research scholar? Will the project make you more competitive for extramural support? There is a one-page limit for this section.
4. **Proposed Expenditures and Justification.** Provide a summary of proposed expenditures according to broad budget categories (non-faculty salaries, supplies, graduate student support, etc.) If you are requesting two continuous years of support, indicate the proposed expenditures for each year. Please justify any unusual or large budget items. Note: If you are requesting funding for two years you must provide a strong justification for that support in this section.
5. **Biographical Information.** Please provide a two-page biographical summary for each participating faculty member. The summary should include the items requested specifically on the sheet titled "Biographical Sketch."

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION GRANTS (URSG): PROGRAM DETAILS AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

This program is for faculty who work in fields eligible for RSG funding (see the opening paragraph on the first page of this announcement). The program encourages faculty in those fields to work with undergraduates under the umbrella of the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSR) during the coming summer. Eligible faculty who have never before served as the faculty sponsor of a VUSR student project may apply for a URSG research-support award of \$5,000. Eligible faculty who *have* previously served as the faculty sponsor of a VUSR student may apply for a URSG research award of \$2,000.

Summary of the VUSR The VUSR, which makes awards only to students, is built around the idea that an undergraduate will carry out a summer research project under the supervision of a faculty member, referred to as the faculty sponsor. The next VUSR cycle will be announced for the first time in mid-October, at which time interested undergraduates will be instructed to begin their search for faculty sponsors and to begin developing ideas for summer projects. (Details about the VUSR can be found at <http://vusr.vanderbilt.edu/>.) A more detailed announcement, including the schedule for informational meetings, will be sent to the students in February. To apply for a VUSR award, a student is expected to identify and work with a faculty sponsor to develop a short, three-page application endorsed by the faculty sponsor. A committee of faculty will select awardees from among the submitted student applications. Each student selected for an award will receive a \$4,000 stipend for the ten-week summer project.

Applying for the URSG Faculty interested in applying for a research award will need to identify an interested undergraduate to sponsor, work with that student to develop a competitive summer research project, and then, if the student's VUSR application is successful, supervise that project during the coming summer. Each faculty member may apply for only one URSG award in a given summer. Receiving a URSG award is contingent upon the student winning a VUSR award. To apply for URSG funding, an eligible faculty member must submit an application containing the following items no later than 5:00 pm on **March 8, 2010**:

1. A completed cover page (provided), indicating Undergraduate Research Supervision Grant as the category. The title of the investigation should be concise but descriptive.
2. A copy of the VUSR application prepared and submitted (by the student) under the faculty member's supervision;
3. A copy of the faculty member's two-page biographical sketch (see "BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH" page);
4. An at-most three-page narrative that (a) states whether or not the faculty member has had previous experience supervising one or more VUSR student projects, (b) describes the faculty member's perspective on the content and significance of the proposed student project, and (c) describes how the faculty member plans to go about supervising this project if the student's VUSR proposal is successful.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. **Cover Page.** Complete the cover page provided and indicate Research Scholar Fellowship as the category. The title of the proposed research should be concise but descriptive of the activities you propose to engage in while on an extended, one-year leave.
2. **Proposed Research.** This section should be written for an individual who is not an expert in the field. Describe the proposed research and include any supporting data, as appropriate. Define the specific aims or goals of the research, describe the methods to be used to accomplish the stated goals, and state clearly the significance of the research. There is a three-page limit for this section; pages should be single-spaced and have one-inch margins.
3. **Rationale.** Please describe how the project meets the goals of the fellowship category of the program. What will a second semester of leave (with fellowship) permit you to accomplish that a single semester's leave would not? What is the product of the proposed year's leave? There is a one-page limit for this section.
4. **Fellowship Stipend.** Please state the level of fellowship stipend you are requesting. Have you applied for external support for a second semester of leave? If yes, please indicate from what program, the amount of support you hope to receive, and the date you expect to receive a decision. If you are awarded a Research Scholar Fellowship as well as external funding for a second semester, do you plan to request a grant for direct support of research from the RSG Program? If so, please propose a tentative budget (up to \$5,000) indicating the expenditure amounts by category.
5. **Biographical Information.** Please provide a two-page biography, as described on the sheet marked "Biographical Sketch." Include on a third page a description of the research conducted during leaves over the past ten years. What was accomplished during those leaves? Please state the year and length of each leave, and indicate whether you received any support from external sources or from the Research Scholar Grants Program or its predecessor (i.e., the University Research Council).

RSG PROGRAM SUMMER STIPENDS

1. **Cover Page.** Complete the cover page provided and indicate Summer Stipends as the category. The title of the investigation should be concise but descriptive of the work that would be carried out during the summer in question.
2. **Proposed Research.** This section should be written for an individual who is not an expert in the field. Describe the proposed research and include any supporting data, as appropriate. Define the specific aims or goals of the proposed summer research, describe the methods to be used to accomplish those goals, and state clearly the significance of the research activity proposed. Because the competition in this category will be especially keen, please make every attempt to communicate the intellectual excitement that underpins the proposed research. There is a three-page limit for this section; pages should be single-spaced and have one-inch margins.
3. **Biographical Information.** Please provide a two-page biographical summary for each participating faculty member. The summary should include the items requested specifically on the sheet titled "Biographical Sketch."

RSG LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA GRANTS

1. Cover Page. Complete the cover page provided and indicate Lectures and Symposia as the category. After “Title of the Proposed Research,” indicate the topic(s) of the lecture series or symposium you propose. Please provide information about all personnel associated with the proposal, identifying clearly the faculty member who will serve as the point-of-contact for those administering the Research Scholar Grants Program.
2. Proposed Lecture Series and/or Symposium. Describe the lecture series or symposium you are proposing, presenting in some detail the subject matter and listing possible participants. What is the target audience? Describe the positive impact of the proposed program on research by Vanderbilt faculty.
3. Budget. Provide an estimated budget for the cost of the lecture series or symposium using broad categories (e.g. honoraria, travel & lodging for speakers, etc.)
4. Biographical Information. Please provide a two-page biography, as described on the sheet marked “Biographical Sketch,” for the faculty member who would serve as the point-of-contact for those administering a successful Research Scholar Grants award.