University Research Council Small Grants Programs

Please read all information before sending inquiry emails to the URC Administrator.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research administers two internal funding programs. The OVCR internal grants programs are:

- University Research Council Small Grant Program
- Travel Grants to Visit Extramural Sponsors

URC Small Grants Program

The University Research Council (URC) of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill administers a Small Grant program for faculty and professional librarians at UNC-CH. This award program has been redesigned to help junior faculty and less well funded investigators. Two types of grants are available:

Research grants support the scientific, scholarly or artistic efforts of junior faculty. They may be used for costs such as collecting pilot data, research-related travel, research equipment or supplies, research assistants, or the costs of smaller-scale projects. The Council encourages the use of URC grants as a stepping stone to extramural support. The maximum URC research award is up to $7,500.

- Eligibility, Procedures and Regulations
- Instructions for Electronic Submission

Publication grants help pay the costs of publishing scientific, scholarly or artistic work (no textbooks). They may be used to pay for such things as photographs, drawings, figures or tables, permissions to reprint, or subvention costs. The maximum URC publication award is up to $5,000.

- Eligibility, Procedures and Regulations
- Instructions for Electronic Submission

Notes on Funding Cycles:

Research proposals are reviewed once a year. They are due in the fall for spring award. Faculty members are sent an announcement in advance of the deadline. A faculty member may submit only one URC publication proposal per spring or fall term. The fall award is presented mid-December and spring award mid-May.

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Eligibility: Applicants must be members of the UNC-CH faculty holding a faculty rank. (Tenure, tenure-track, research professorial or clinical ranks but not clinical instructor) OR professional librarians in the analogous librarian ranks. Librarians and HSRC and FPG investigators are still eligible to submit even though they are not faculty.

✓ No full professors, distinguished professors, department chairs, or emeritus faculty are eligible.

✓ No adjuncts, no post-docs (even those who hold instructor positions), no residents, and no graduate students are eligible.

✓ If an associate professor applies, he or she would need to justify why funding is essential and not overlapping with other possible sources.

✓ A justification must be included in all applications as to how the proposed project helps/is relevant to faculty development and promotion.

Forms: URC application forms are now available online.

- There are separate forms for research and publications grants: https://apps.research.unc.edu/urc/
- Instructions are available online: http://research.unc.edu/offices/vice-chancellor/programs-projects-services/data_res_vcred_grants/

Frequently Asked Questions: Uses of URC Funds

- URC Grants can be used to pay research assistants but never for faculty salary/time.
- Postage is a legitimate URC expense if related to research.
- Travel reimbursements for professional meetings are not an allowable cost for faculty members or research assistants.
- URC Grants cannot be used for: course enhancement, curriculum, course development, public service, textbooks, or any activities for teaching or instruction.
- URC Grants cannot be used for desktop computers, laptops, or other computer hardware. Software for the research is an allowable expense-if related to the project. If purchased, follow the university guidelines. Items belong to the department/university and do not become the personal property of faculty.


Updated 9.11.2014
Reimbursement of Prior Costs:
University Research Council funds cannot generally be used for payment of costs incurred prior to the date of the award. Special cases must be approved prior to submitting an application and will only be granted for costs incurred up to 90 days prior to being awarded.

Costs incurred prior to 90 days will not be reimbursed. Reimbursements will not be made to INDIVIDUALS for “out of pocket” costs. URC grant reimbursements for prior costs must go to the university account (cost center) that originally paid the prior costs.

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