

WISE (Wise Investment in Scholarship Enhancement) Grant Program

The **WISE Grant Program** is a competitive, grant-based initiative aimed at jump-starting research and scholarly engagement across all disciplines at UVA Wise. It provides seed funding to faculty members with clear plans to pursue sustained scholarly projects, research agendas, or creative activities that contribute to a vibrant culture of inquiry, innovation, and academic excellence.

Program Goals:

- Support faculty in launching new scholarly projects or advancing existing ones.
- Encourage scholarly engagement across disciplines.
- Provide initial funding that may lead to external grants or publications.
- Enhance the institution's research profile and intellectual community.
- Identify areas of strength for UVA Wise.

Eligibility & Guidelines:

- Open to full-time faculty members at UVA Wise. Collaborations with individuals from other institutions are welcome. However, only UVA Wise faculty may serve as sponsored investigators and receive direct funding through this program.
- Proposals involving two or more faculty co-investigators, especially those that span multiple disciplines, are strongly encouraged. Such proposals may be eligible for additional support in the form of course buyouts, project materials, or extended timelines. However, this does not imply that each faculty member can receive a full award.
- Proposals that fall under the scope of the Neuroscience or Environmental Resiliency pilot grant programs are not eligible for WISE Grant funding.

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated competitively based on the following factors:

- **Feasibility:** The project has a clear plan and objectives. The scope and timeline are realistic and achievable.
- **Significance:** The potential impact and importance of the project within the applicant's field(s) and/or the potential to impact our region
- **Scholarly Contribution:** The extent to which the project advances knowledge or practice in the relevant discipline(s), the potential for sustained scholarly impact, external funding opportunities, and/or publication.
- **Budget Justification:** Proposed expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, and clearly aligned with project goals.

Funding & Support:

- Grants of up to \$20,000 per proposal will be awarded annually.

- Funds may be used for research-related expenses such as materials, travel, data collection, student research assistance, or course buy-outs (maximum of 1 per academic semester, and subject to approval by the department chair and provost).
- Recipients will participate in research-sharing sessions and are encouraged to seek external funding following the grant period.
- A detailed budget explaining how the requested funding will be used must be included in the proposal.
- Please note that WISE Grant recipients are ineligible to receive Research and Professional Development funding from the Office of Academic Affairs during the grant year. Applicants should include any anticipated conference attendance expenses in their proposed budget.
- Project budgets can be modified by the committee.

Expected Outcomes:

Recipients are expected to produce one or more items from the bulleted list within a reasonable timeframe following the end of the funding period. It is understood that completing a book and/or undergoing peer review may take several months to years. A timeline and plan for completing long term projects should be included in the “Outcomes” section of the proposal.

- Peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly publications, creative works, performance(s), exhibition(s), or installation(s).
- Presentations at regional, national, or international conferences.
- External grant applications based on preliminary findings.
- Increased faculty engagement in scholarly activities at the college.
- Enhanced collaboration among UVA Wise faculty.

Application Process:

- Faculty should submit a detailed proposal including project description, timeline, budget, and anticipated outcomes.
- Proposals should be submitted through the web portal available at the Grand Challenges web page. <https://www.uvawise.edu/academic-affairs/grand-challenges-pilot-grants>
- Proposals will undergo peer review by the WISE Grant Program committee.

Proposal Components:

1. Project description (4 pages maximum) should include:

Title of Project

- Create a clear, descriptive, and concise title that effectively summarizes the essence of your project.

Faculty Members and Collaborators

- List all participating faculty members and collaborators, including their departments or areas of expertise.
- Briefly describe the roles and/or contributions of each collaborator.

Description of the Project

- Clearly articulate the research problem, question, or creative activity.
- Provide relevant background information and context.
- Clearly define the objectives and goals of the project.

Significance of the Proposed Work

- Explain how your project addresses gaps or needs in your scholarly or creative field.
- Highlight the originality and novelty of your proposed work.
- Discuss potential contributions to your field or interdisciplinary connections.

Perceived Impact of the Proposed Work

- Describe any broader implications of your work beyond academia.
- Describe how your project could positively affect UVA Wise, your department, and/or the Central Appalachian region.
- Highlight potential for regional partnerships, community engagement, economic impact, or enhanced institutional visibility.
- Outline plans for sustaining and expanding your project post-grant, including potential external funding sources (grants, foundations, partnerships).

Approach/Methodology

- Detail your research design, methods, or creative process.
- Clearly outline data collection methods, analytical techniques, or creative methodologies you will employ.
- Provide enough detail to allow reviewers to assess the feasibility and rigor of your approach.

Project Outcomes

- Clearly state expected deliverables, such as peer-reviewed articles, presentations, external grant applications, or creative products.
- Provide a timeline for the production of deliverables.

2. References Cited (not included in page limit)

3. C.V.s of all faculty members and collaborators

4. Budget

Clearly and explicitly detail your funding request, broken down into categories such as:

Personnel Costs

- Specify faculty course buy-outs if applicable, detailing approval from your department chair and provost.
- Clearly list any student research assistance, indicating hourly rates, total hours, and duties.

Travel Costs

- List conferences or research travel expenses.
- Clearly state estimated costs for transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees, etc.

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Equipment, Supplies, and Other Expenses

- Provide detailed descriptions and exact costs of required materials and equipment.
- Include expenses for data collection, software purchases, lab materials, or other necessary items.

Total Requested Amount

- Ensure total costs clearly match your budget request, staying within the \$20,000 limit.

5. Applicants requesting a course buy-out must include approval letters from their department chair and provost.

This program reflects strong financial support from our colleagues in Charlottesville and UVA Wise's commitment to supporting faculty research, strengthening the academic community, and advancing knowledge across disciplines.