



Greetings! It's been a busy summer at ORCA as we geared up to support every research and creative endeavor you bring us this year.

Curious about our internal funding? Explore our brand-new [Internal Funding Hub](#) — your one-stop shop for every ORCA internal grant opportunity available to WKU faculty and students.

Calling all mentors: The Spring 2027 [FUSE application portal](#) is open for students to apply 9/4 through October 31, 2026. Encourage your students to apply!

Mark your calendars: the RCAP application for faculty launches December 1, 2026, with a submission deadline of February 26, 2027. Questions? Email internal.grants@wku.edu.

Upcoming Events:

Join us September 15

The Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) is hosting a **Seminar Series** on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in Helm 3002/3008, with sessions on funding, IRB, Research Security Training (RST), and grant budgeting.

See [more details](#) or [register](#) to save your seat.

Join us September 16

ORCA invites faculty and staff to **Coffee & Connect**, an informal drop-in on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Helm 3002/3008. Stop by to ask questions, explore funding, or just say hello – no registration needed.

In this newsletter:

PRE-AWARD:
Proposal
Development
Services

NEW:
Internal Funding
Hub Page!

RCAP: FY27
Awardees

RCAP: Apply
Beginning
December 1st

FUSE: Fall
2026 Awardees

Office of Research
Integrity (ORI)

Proposal Development:

The Path to External Funding Starts Here

The Pre-Award unit is dedicated to assisting Principal Investigators with Proposal Development and Submission. These services include review of the application **guidelines**, creation of a proposal **checklist**, **budget** development, proposal **review** for compliance with guidelines, and proposal **submission**.

Grant Life Cycle



One Click Resources

NEW Timeline for
Proposal Submission



Proposal Intent
Form



Principal Investigator
Handbook



Find External
Funding



Connect with Us

Save The Date: *Tuesday, September 15, 2026* – An all-day seminar series will be held on a variety of external grant topics, including opportunities to connect with Pre-Award staff. Register [here](#) today!

Virtual Open Office Hours: Join us via Zoom to chat and ask questions about anything proposal-related.

Date	Time	Zoom Link (no registration needed)
Thursday, October 15, 2026	3:00pm - 4:00pm	https://wku.zoom.us/j/94118617794
Friday, October 16, 2026	10:00am - 11:00am	https://wku.zoom.us/j/94118617794
Thursday, November 12, 2026	3:00pm - 4:00pm	https://wku.zoom.us/j/96111530471
Friday, November 13, 2026	10:00am - 11:00am	https://wku.zoom.us/j/96111530471

Email: proposal.development@wku.edu

Discover Internal Funding: Your New One-Stop Hub

The new Internal Funding Hub on our website is your central destination for exploring the internal grant opportunities available through ORCA for WKU faculty and students. It reflects a core belief behind ORCA's internal grant programs that meaningful research and creative work begin with institutional investment in the people doing it. Together, these opportunities support faculty ambition, undergraduate curiosity, and graduate excellence while moving careers forward and generating knowledge that reaches beyond campus into the communities WKU serves. [Explore the Hub → wku.edu/research/internal-funding.php](https://wku.edu/research/internal-funding.php)

For Faculty

- **Research & Creative Activities Program (RCAP) – up to \$16,000 / \$8,000**

Seed funding and proposal support to launch or advance research, scholarly, & creative projects
FY28 RCAP cycle opens December 1, 2026

- **Proposal Development Support – up to \$3,000**

For collaborative proposal planning and development activities, like proposal writing workshops & expert proposal review, that lead to the development and submission of competitive external funding proposals

- **Quick Turn-Around Grants (QTAG)**

Funded through F&A cost recovery for time-sensitive research needs — supplies, travel, equipment, assistants, and dissemination costs, with decisions typically made within weeks

NEW: Browse All ORCA Internal Funding Opportunities
wku.edu/research/internal-funding.php

One convenient hub for RCAP, FUSE, Graduate Research & Travel Grants, and more.

For Undergraduate Students

- **Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) – \$3,000 | \$4,000 international**

Hands-on experience through faculty-mentored research and creative projects | Learn more [here](#)

Next cycle open September 4, 2026, in [SPIRIT](#)

For Graduate Students

- **Graduate Student Research Grants**

Research support, travel funding, and a fellowship for first-generation students
Funding for materials, supplies, equipment, and assistance for thesis, dissertation, & independent research projects

- **Graduate Student Travel Grants**

Supports costs of presenting findings at professional conferences & workshops

- **Distinguished First-Generation Research Fellowship (DFF)**

Applications open January 2027; deadline April 15, 2027

Celebrating Our FY27 RCAP Awardees

15 RCAP Awards were made for the FY27 cycle. This competitive internal funding program supports faculty research and creative projects across campus, providing essential seed funding that strengthens competitiveness for external grants while advancing discovery and innovation in every discipline.

This cycle's funded projects feature several exciting interdisciplinary collaborations. Topics range from innovative research on potential new targets to improve antibiotic treatment, to the production of a live concert recording of modern chamber music masterworks.

All past and present awardees with project titles can be found [here](#).

FY27 RCAP Award Recipients

Mi An, Foysal Ahmed, Greg Arbuckle & Jeffrey Galloway

Engineering & Applied Sciences / Computer Science

Ching-Yi Lin & Andrew Braddock

Music

Sophia Arjana

History

Ivan Novikov

Physics & Astronomy

Tanja Bibbs & Sarah Bonis

Leadership & Professional Studies / Psychology

Gigi Petery & Katrina Burch

Psychological Sciences

Ali Oguz Er

Physics & Astronomy

Jason Polk

Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences

Liwei Fang

Biological Sciences

Luiz Pereira Silva & John Khouryieh

Agriculture & Food Science / Engineering & Applied Sciences

Steven Gibson

Physics & Astronomy

Michael Smith

Biological Sciences

Lawrence Hill

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Qin Zhao

Psychology

Jean-Luc Houle

Sociology, Culture, Crime, & Justice

RCAP: Seed funding today. External impact tomorrow.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITY:
Launching Your Next Big Research or Creative Idea?
Apply for an RCAP Grant!

The **Research and Creative Activities Program (RCAP)** supports eligible full-time WKU faculty and instructors in developing projects that promote research, scholarly, and creative activities. This competitive internal grant program serves as a powerful foundation for pursuing external funding as seed funding and support to help faculty launch or advance their work across all disciplines.



RCAP at a Glance

Awards are available in two categories:

- **Category I (Seed Funding):** Up to \$16,000 to enhance the competitiveness of an external proposal. Awardees are required to submit an external funding proposal as a result of RCAP support
- **Category II (Project Development):** Up to \$8,000 for the general development, expansion, or enhancement of research, scholarly activity, or creative/performing arts. Awardees must submit an external proposal or attend an external sponsor's training/workshop.

Ready to Apply?

- Review the [RCAP FY28 Guidelines](#) and [FAQs](#)
- [RCAP FY28 Application Portal in SPIRIT](#) launches **December 1, 2026**
- Submission Deadline: **February 26, 2027**

Questions? Email internal.grants@wku.edu



Congratulations to Our Fall 2026 FUSE Awardees!

Eighteen WKU undergraduate students have been awarded Fall 2026 Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) awards, which support original research and creative projects conducted in collaboration with faculty mentors.

This semester's awardees represent a range of disciplines, from psychological sciences and physics to political science, history, and the arts. Projects include production of a short film, research on wavelength shifting materials, a string instrument pedagogy workshop, optimization of soil hydraulic function, and many others.

Fall 2026 FUSE Awardees

Bir Altabbaa Faculty Mentor: Dr. Matthew Woodward, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences	Campbell Lahman Faculty Mentor: Dr. Timothy Rich, Professor of Political Science
Ella Bryant Faculty Mentor: Shaina Feldman, Assistant Professor of the School of Media & Communication	Derek Markus Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, Professor of Music
Emma Childress Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessi Thomsen, Assistant Professor of English	Jodie Meiser Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katlyn Hettinger, Assistant Professor of Economics
Cain Del Savio Faculty Mentor: Dr. Farley Norman, University Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences	Elaina Oakes Faculty Mentor: Dr. Timothy Rich, Professor of Political Science
Brennan Edwards Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ivan Novikov, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy	Nik Schintgen Faculty Mentor: Dr. Giliane Rasbold, Assistant Professor of Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences
Lily Haynes Faculty Mentor: Dr. Diane Lickenbrock, Professor of Psychological Sciences	Malleswar Jayaraman Suresh Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kevin Williams, Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Matthew Hunter Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven R. Winger, Professor of Psychology	Matthew Taylor Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katherine Lennard, Associate Professor of History
Noah Jennings Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Polk, Professor of Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences	Ashten Tignor Faculty Mentor: Dr. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Professor of Agriculture & Food Science
Mary Grace Johnson Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Brausch, Professor of Psychological Sciences	Jagger Tomes Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Hostetter, Assistant Professor of Analytics & Information Systems

For more information about FUSE, visit wku.edu/research/fuse or email fuse@wku.edu

The Office of Research Integrity

ORI is dedicated to ensuring compliance and upholding research integrity throughout the WKU campus system. We are committed to providing guidance to all faculty, staff, and students involved in research activities including Human Subjects, Animal Care and Use, Biosafety, Conflict of Interests, Export Controls, and Research Security.

What's New?

- Revised Human Subjects Application Forms
- New Human Subjects Amendment Form, Renewal Application, and Study Closeout Form
- Changes to the ORI Website including:
 - Updated information on Human Subjects Project Lifecycle
 - Updated information on Conflict-of-Interest Disclosures
 - Further instruction on CITI Program Trainings
 - New ORI Updates Section on our home page
- Research Security Training Refresher Course is live in CITI Program. This course is available to researchers who have completed the Research Security Training (Combined) Course within the past year

ORI Tips

- For the most updated forms please only download from our [Website](#) or from the Forms and Templates section in IRBNet
- Responsible Conduct of Research Training is required for all researchers, including students participating in research activities. This needs to be completed through CITI Program

Upcoming:

- Watch for our 2027 Conflict of Interest (COI) request going out in October. COI disclosures and the associate training are required for Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, and Key Personnel that receive external funding.
- Research Security Training (Combined) in CITI Program is required for all federally funded programs
- If you have taken Research Security Training, please take the Refresher course in CITI Program for 2027
- Save the date for September 15th! ORI will have training and information sessions about Research Security, Conflict of Interests, and Human Subjects Research!

Questions?

Quick Links

Human Subjects



CITI Trainings



Conflicts of Interest



Please reach out to the Office of Research Integrity with any questions. We are always happy to help.

Email: ori@wku.edu

Phone: (270) 745-3360

**Wetherby Administration
Building, Suite 301**



SAVE THE DATE

**57th Annual WKU
Student Scholar Showcase**

Saturday, March 6, 2027

Applications open after Fall Break

WKU.EDU/SHOWCASE

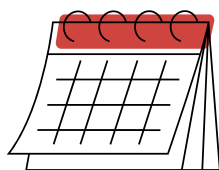


FY25 Annual Report

We're pleased to share our FY25 Annual Report, highlighting a year of funding achievements, award recipients, and key research milestones across campus.

Look for our FY2026 Annual Report by the end of the Fall 2026 semester!

\$17M+ in external awards • **151** funded projects • **162** internal grants awarded



For external funding proposers and awardees

Watch for an invitation to the WKU Celebration of Research & Sponsored Activities, where we will honor faculty and staff for their FY26 grant accomplishments on January 28th at MAC.

Thank you for reading!

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<u>wku.edu/research</u>	Wetherby Administration Building Room 319