

UMF Student Research Grants Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Where can I find more information?
<https://z.umn.edu/UMFgrants>
2. Are there pre-determined breaks that qualify for the funding?
No, the proposal should articulate which times will be used for the research and how the project may be completed using those specific periods during the project timeline.
3. Could a student apply for 8 weeks and use 4 during winter break and the other 4 between their second and third year?
This is a possible arrangement. The feasibility of completing the project during the 12 month period should be articulated in the proposal.
4. Can this grant fund projects that have already started and/or are receiving funding from other sources?
Yes
5. When can we expect to hear about funding decisions?
For the Fall cycle, notifications will be out by the end of October.
For the Spring cycle, notifications will be out by the end of March.
6. Are we able to receive feedback on previously submitted proposals?
No, we are not able to provide individualized feedback on previous proposals. We do not collect qualitative feedback from the reviewers on each proposal.

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL AID

7. Does the funding count towards a student's total allowable financial aid?
Yes
8. Can a medical student receive more than one grant during their time in medical school?
Yes; A student may receive up to two grants provided a full report is submitted for each phase.
9. Can a student use these funds for professional development or travel to a conference?
Conference travel is not the intended purpose of these funds. There are opportunities for student travel funding to conferences available through the Office of Student Affairs, found [here](#).

PROPOSAL DETAILS

10. What is the ideal depth and scope of a successful research project

Ensure that your project can make significant progress in the time period requested for the grant funding. Projects that are too large or small don't generally receive funding. It is okay if your proposal is a subcomponent of a larger project just keep the scope of your proposal realistic and manageable.
11. Any specific areas of research that are prioritized or considered especially impactful.

To the extent that the research can be applied or directly inform some larger, current issues/topics/research areas the more likely they may be considered for funding. The reviewers are all very plugged into the current research scene within their area and they will review these proposals with the same eye toward 'contributions to science' that an NIH reviewer may use.

12. Can you share any general recommendations or advice for crafting a compelling research proposal?

- Have someone else read your proposal before you submit it. It should be understandable (at least the primary objective) by someone who is a non scientist.
- Share/show your passion/commitment to the topic if/when that is possible.
- Pay attention to the feasibility of your intended outcomes in the time you have available to work on the project. The reviewers will consider how realistic your project goals are with the time and other resources you have available.

13. Can you share an example of a funded protocol?

Yes, the UMF student research grants website has an example in the "Sample Protocol" tab.

14. Can my proposal be for a systematic review and meta-analysis?

UMF research grants must involve generation of new data. A systematic review and meta-analysis could be a component of the project, but should not be the entire project.

15. Are international projects eligible for funding?

Yes, international research projects are eligible as long as the mentor assigned to the project is a UMN faculty member.

SUPERVISORS AND PROJECT COLLABORATORS

16. Does the faculty have to be U of MN based in order to be eligible for this grant?

You must have a University of Minnesota faculty mentor supporting the work, though you may work with external collaborators. The supervisor could be tenure track/tenured, academic track, clinical track, or a community instructor (paid or unpaid). The supervisor letter should be signed by the UMN-affiliated faculty member.

17. Can a fellow serve as the project mentor?

The primary mentor has to be a UMN faculty member. The fellow can certainly be part of the mentorship group but there has to be a faculty member who has ultimate responsibility for the project.

18. Can the faculty supervisor write a single letter of support for a joint proposal by multiple students?

Yes, a joint letter of support may be written.

Submit unanswered questions [here](#).