

RISE INITIATIVE RESEARCH SEED GRANT GENERAL POLICY & GUIDELINES

General Overview

As a way to enhance the research and grant writing experience for RISE Initiative graduate student members, we will offer two grants of up to \$1,500 (depending on yearly budget availability) for innovative student research that is resilience themed. These grants will allow students to conduct research that they might normally not be able to carry out with their traditional research funding through their own graduate program.

Grant Requirements

- Grant applicants must be graduate student members of the RISE Initiative.
- Grant applicants are required to attend the RISE Student Workshop on Proposal Development prior to submitting their proposal.
- All applications must be pre-approved by a faculty mentor, who will work closely with the student throughout the implementation of the project.
- Awardees are expected to spend the funds by April 2026 and present their work at the Annual Day-Long RISE Initiative Conference.

Deadline: November 21st at 5pm

Application Process

Students will be asked to submit an application proposal addressing the background/significance, specific aims, and proposed methods of their research, as well as the proposal's relevance to resilience and student development (no more than 2 pages in length). Special attention will be given to how well the project aligns with the resilience theme and supports student development. Students will also submit a CV, timeline, proposed budget, faculty mentor's approval, and copy of IRB approval (if applicable).

As our goal is to provide funding to a broad range of students, first-time recipients will be given priority consideration. However, students who have received other internal funding in the past year are still eligible to apply; but they will need to specify what they did with the prior awards and how the current application is different from or significantly builds on their prior funded study.

Award Process

If more than 2 applications are received by the deadline, then an ad hoc committee of 3 RISE faculty will review the applications and make award decisions based on the following criteria (see below for more details): 1) quality and significance of the research proposed; 2) alignment with the resilience theme; 3) feasibility of conducting the research within the timeline; 4) the student's role in the project; 5) first-time recipient; and 6) financial need over and above what the applicants can receive through other internal or external funding sources. The ad hoc has the

power to decide how many awards and at what amount up to the \$1,500. The ad hoc committee will make their decisions no later than 3 weeks following the submission deadline.

Source of Funding

The RISE Seed Grant monies will be funded through the RISE Initiative account.

RISE Seed Grant Scoring Criteria

Resilience Theme

- How well does the project align with the RISE theme (i.e., resilience in social environments)?

Overall quality of the research proposal:

- Is the proposed research well designed? To what extent will it provide new information for the field?

Impact and/or significance of the likely research findings

- What impacts will each of the possible outcomes or patterns of findings from this specific study have? (e.g., will “null” results be informative?)

Clarity and feasibility of study plan:

- Is there a clear plan for carrying out the research?
- Is that plan feasible?
 - E.g., To what extent can the funds be spent by April 2026?

Student development

- Does the student applicant play a central role in the project? How will the proposed research benefit the student’s development?

Role of funding

- Why is this funding instrumental for conducting this research? Applicants should disclose whether any prior closely-related research by this student or faculty member has previously been awarded funding—if so, explain why additional funding is instrumental for the overall project.

Rating Scale: 5 - excellent, 4 - good, 3 - fair, 2 – poor, 1 – unacceptable

Updated 9/23/2025