

NACS Student Research Grant Program

Request for Applications (RFA)

Program Overview

The Program in [Neuroscience and Cognitive Science \(NACS\)](#) is pleased to announce the new **NACS Student Research Grant Program**. This grant provides small-scale funding to support innovative research conducted by NACS graduate students.

- **Maximum Award Amount:** Up to **\$1,500**
 - **Application Deadline: Rolling basis** (Applications are reviewed as received until the funds are exhausted)
 - **Funding Period: 1 year** from the date of award approval
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Eligibility

- **Student Status:** Open to all enrolled NACS doctoral students
 - **Limitation:** Can only receive an award twice: once in pre-candidacy and once in post-candidacy
 - **Good Standing:** Applicants must be in good academic standing within the program.
 - **Advisor(s)' Approval Required:** Advisors must approve the application and confirm that requested funds directly advance student research rather than supplementing general lab budgets.
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Allowable & Unallowable Costs

- **Allowable Expenses:** Research supplies (e.g., lab consumables, testing kits, participant incentives, assay reagents), specialized software (e.g., data analysis tools, specialized software licenses), and costs of additional training for new methodology or analysis techniques.
 - **Unallowable Expenses:** Travel or conference registration fees, Tuition, stipends, or salary support, General computer hardware (unless specialized/essential), Publication charges.
 - **Please ask in advance if you are unsure**
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Required Application Materials

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document containing the following materials in order:

1. Cover Page & Advisor Sign-Off

- Project Title
- Student Name, Email, Department/Program and Candidacy Status (Pre- or Post-Candidacy)
- Primary Advisor/co-Advisor Name(s) & Department(s)

Use of AI: One sentence to describe whether and how you used AI to prepare the proposal. For example:

- "After drafting the project summary and justification, I used ChatGPT to help reduce the word count."

- “I used Claude to draft the short description based on the 500-word abstract I submitted to the conference.”
 - “I did not use any AI tools to prepare this proposal.”
 - Advisor Signature: Signature line demonstrating advisor approval of the proposed project and budget.
2. **Research Proposal (1 Page)**
- **Formatting:** Single-spaced, 11-point font or larger, 0.5-inch margins.
 - **Content Requirements:**
 - **Background & Significance:** Explain the question, hypotheses, and rationale. Explain why the research is important, both for the field and for your personal scholarly development.
 - **Specific Aims & Methodology:** Brief experimental design, methods, feasibility, and expected outcomes.
 - **Role of advisor in proposal preparation:** The advisor can provide feedback and comments, but the proposal should be written entirely by the student.
3. **Budget & Justification (0.5-1 page):** Budget detailing specific supplies or software needed and how they directly enable the project.
4. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
- Up-to-date academic CV highlighting relevant research experience, publications, presentations, and coursework, NIH or NSF biosketch format(created by SciEnCV) is recommended.

Submission & Review Process

- **How to Submit:** Send your complete application package as a single PDF via email to Joo Yun (jyun@umd.edu) with the subject line: **NACS Student Research Grant Application - [Last Name]**.
- **Review Criteria:** Applications will be evaluated by the NACSGrants Committee based on:
 1. Scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed research.
 2. Clear alignment of requested software/supplies with project goals.
 3. Strength of student preparation in grant writing.
- **Notification:** Applicants will typically receive a funding decision within 3–4 weeks of submission.