The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts is pleased to announce a revised internal grants program to support research and scholarly activities led by IAC faculty. This new program – **Grants to Enhance and Advance Research and Scholarship (GEARS)** – replaces existing Small Grants for Research (SGR) and Short-term Opportunity for Professional Development and Scholarly Activities (SODA) programs. A copy of this RFP and lists of recipients of previous internal funding programs are available on the IAC Research Administration website: https://research.iac.gatech.edu/iac-gt-funding

Grants to Enhance and Advance Research and Scholarship (GEARS) Funding Programs

The GEARS competition is open to proposals in **any area of research** pursued by IAC faculty. We particularly encourage cross-school collaborative proposals and new initiatives with the potential to lead to external funding that will strengthen our research profile. We also welcome proposals that leverage and strengthen IAC and School-based collaborative research centers and/or connect with priority areas of interdisciplinary research for the broader campus community.

Categories

External Funding Support
Up to $5,000 to provide protected time and support the development of an application for external funding from a relevant government agency (e.g., NSF, NIH, NEH, USDA, etc.) or philanthropic foundation. Applicants should identify a potential grant solicitation, provide the expected due date for the proposal, and provide a high-level overview of their proposal. They should also briefly summarize their past record of applying for and/or receiving external funding. Recipients will be expected to submit a draft of their proposal approximately four weeks in advance of the submission deadline to allow for internal review and revision.

Research Funding (Level 1 or Level 2)
Up to $5,000 (Level 1) or $15,000 (Level 2) to support ongoing or new research initiatives. Applicants should describe the specific research activities that the funding would enable, the significance of this research, any deliverables that are expected to result, and how the project advances their broader research agenda. All applicants are encouraged to indicate connections between their proposals and focus areas of Georgia Tech's existing Interdisciplinary Research Institutes or emerging areas of interdisciplinary research at Georgia Tech.

Note: We anticipate giving more Level 1 than Level 2 grants to spread our limited funding among more faculty. For larger (Level 2) proposals, preference is given to collaborative projects (both intra- and inter-school) and to individual proposals that make a compelling case that they could not be completed with Level 1 funding.

Research Time (Level 1 or Level 2)
One course release (Level 1) or two course releases in the same semester (Level 2) during the upcoming academic year to provide time for faculty to undertake time-intensive research projects. Applicants

should describe the specific research activities that the release time would enable, the significance of this research, any deliverables that are expected to result, and how this project advances their broader research agenda. They should also clearly explain why the proposed research requires dedicated time with reduced teaching. Applicants for Level 2 grants, in particular, should clearly explain why their research could only be completed with a two-course reduction as opposed to a single course release. Applicants should indicate their expected teaching load (including any existing or expected releases) for the upcoming academic year and may specify a preferred semester for the release time. Research time grants may not be used by faculty to reduce teaching to a 0:0 course load for an academic year nor may release time from these grants be banked and used in future semesters. Recipients are expected to continue other Georgia Tech responsibilities (e.g., advising, school or college level service, etc.) during the semester with reduced teaching. Faculty needing to spend substantial time away from campus as part of their research efforts must comply with Georgia Tech travel rules and, if needed, policies on time away from campus.

Note: We anticipate giving more Level 1 (single course release) than Level 2 (two course releases in the same semester) grants to spread our limited funding among more faculty. Level 2 research time grants are only available for tenured faculty, senior or principal academic professionals, and senior or principal lecturers with at least 6 full years of service as IAC faculty members at the start of the grant and who have not received a level 2 research time grant for at least 6 years. In addition to normal reporting, recipients will have additional requirements, including a public seminar describing their research activities and accomplishments.

Logistical Details

Due Date	Friday, November 8 at 5:00 pm
Eligibility	Most grants are open to all full-time academic and research faculty with a primary appointment in an IAC unit, excluding: • Faculty who received funding in the 2024-2025 cycle of the SGR program or the 2024 cycle of the SODA program (i.e. IAC internal grants given in spring 2024) • Postdoctoral fellows and visiting faculty Research Time Level 2 grants have additional eligibility restrictions, described above.
Applicant Limits	Eligible applicants can apply for at most two grants – one in the External Funding Support category and one in either the Research Funding or Research Time category per application cycle.
Application	Online application with an up to 500-word description of project and budget.
Review	Applications are reviewed by School Chairs, IAC faculty, and the IAC Associate Dean for Research. Review criteria include: • Significance, Methodology, and Feasibility • Contribution to applicant's research program • Alignment with IAC and GT priorities
Selection	IAC Dean, based on recommendations by faculty reviewers.
Funding	Depending on applicant preference and budget availability, funds will be provided in either January 2025 with a requirement that they be spent prior to June 30, 2025 or in July 2025, with a requirement that they be spent prior to June 30, 2026. Carryover of funding from one fiscal year to the next is not permitted.

Eligible Expenses	Funding can be used for a wide variety of research-related expenses, including faculty summer salary, graduate student support, undergraduate student support, research related travel, or research related materials in compliance with Georgia Tech procurement policies. Please note that funds cannot be used to purchase gift cards to compensate research participants.
Reporting	Recipients are required to submit a report at the end of the grant period indicating how funds were spent and summarizing the outcomes and impacts of the project.

Application Portal: https://gatech.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1952922