

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts (IAC) is pleased to announce its annual call for **Grants to Enhance and Advance Research and Scholarship (GEARS).** A copy of this GEARS request for proposals (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 Institute community.

Categories

External Funding Support

Up to $5,000 to support the development of an application for external funding from a relevant government agency (e.g., NSF, NIH, NEH, USDA, etc.) or philanthropic foundation. Funds may be used for a variety of research related expenses including, but not limited to, summer salary, student support, materials and supplies, data collection for research, or travel. Applicants should identify a potential grant solicitation, provide the expected due date for the proposal, provide a high-level overview of their proposal, and indicate how this funding would help them prepare a high-quality proposal. Applicants 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. Funds may be used for a variety of research related expenses including, but not limited to, summer salary, student support, materials and supplies, research data, conference hosting co-sponsorships, book subventions, or travel to domestic or international conferences to disseminate research. 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. For conference travel, applicants should explain the importance of presenting at this venue for their research trajectories and career development. If applicable, applicants are encouraged to indicate connections between their proposals and focus areas of Georgia Tech's existing Interdisciplinary Research Institutes.

Note: We anticipate offering more Level 1 than Level 2 grants to spread our limited funding among more faculty. For larger (Level 2) proposals, preference will be 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) in academic year 2027-2028 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) in academic year 2027-2028 and may specify a preferred semester for the release time. In line with USG policy, additional approval is required for faculty to reduce teaching to a 0:0 course load for an academic year. Release time from these grants may not 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 that may spend substantial time away from campus as part of their research efforts must comply with Georgia Tech travel and time away from campus policies.

Note: We anticipate offering 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	Monday, November 9 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 and at the Atlanta campus, excluding: • Faculty who received funding in the 2025-2026 cycle of the GEARS program (see list of awardees at research.iac.gatech.edu) • Postdoctoral fellows • Visiting and limited-term 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

	• (For Conference Travel only) Importance of presenting at this event for the applicant's research trajectory and career development
Selection	IAC Dean, based on recommendations by faculty reviewers.
Funding	Depending on applicant preference and budget availability, funds will be provided in either January 2027 with a requirement that they be spent prior to June 30, 2027 or in July 2027, with a requirement that they be spent prior to June 30, 2028. 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.