

Frequently Asked Questions – Faculty Research Awards

Who is eligible to apply?

Proposals may originate from any discipline, art, science, or administrative unit of the University of Chicago, provided humanistic knowledge and modes of inquiry are central to the pursuit, and provided at least one member of the University of Chicago faculty is engaged as a research leader.

- Projects with postdoctoral researchers as the only University of Chicago team member are not eligible for support.
- In some cases, eligibility may be impacted by a collective bargaining agreement.
- Current members of the Neubauer Collegium Advisory Board are ineligible to apply.

What is meant by “humanistic”?

The Collegium requires that all projects integrate a humanistic perspective or methodology. But what humanistic means is open to interpretation. We leave it to the researchers to define the humanistic element(s) in relation to their project’s aims. The researchers do not have to be from the humanities.

What is meant by “interdisciplinary”?

One value of interdisciplinarity is to bring together the different perspectives needed to address a complex set of questions. Those perspectives can come from different disciplines or subdivide within a discipline. We leave it to the researchers to explain the nature and necessity of the interdisciplinarity involved in their project.

How will proposals be evaluated?

The Faculty Advisory Board of the Neubauer Collegium evaluates proposals based on the following criteria:

- The originality and intellectual significance of the proposed research.
- The degree to which the humanistic element is integral to the success of the project.
- The degree to which collaboration is essential for the aims of the research.
- Fit between the design and feasibility of project activities and the project’s intellectual goals.
- The clear and distinct impact that Neubauer Collegium support will make on the project.
- The reasonableness of costs in relation to anticipated results.

Proposals that exclusively support bringing Visiting Fellows will be evaluated on the likelihood that the visitor will strengthen or catalyze a collaborative research community on campus.

What kinds of outcomes is the Collegium looking for?

While there is no specific result or outcome that the Neubauer Collegium requires from faculty research projects, every proposal should articulate its anticipated outputs (deliverables) and impacts (meaning, what is different because of the project?).

Outputs and impacts can be as varied as:

- the realization of a conference or faculty working group series
- the launch of a cross-disciplinary research group
- an artistic production, including performance or exhibition
- the development and dissemination of new research, datasets, or digital tools
- the development of a new theory or an innovative methodological approach
- establishment of a new funding partnership beyond the Collegium
- establishment of a new center, lab, or institute

Results should be clearly related to the project activities and reasonable in relation to the project costs.

Can proposals include an exhibition at the Neubauer Collegium?

Yes. All exhibitions at the Neubauer Collegium are curated by Dieter Roelstraete and require a separate approval process. Please email roelstraete@uchicago.edu to schedule a consultation.

What costs should my proposal budget include?

The Collegium supports the direct costs of research. The budget should include all costs necessary to carry out the research activities supported by the Collegium.

Budgets should itemize direct costs of research and research activities supported by Collegium funding. Multi-year projects should include an itemized budget, preferably in spreadsheet form, for each year. If the itemized budget cannot fully describe how costs are calculated, please include a brief justification of costs. Examples of budgeted activities could include:

- **Conferences/Events**
 - Sample convening budget available [here](#).
- **Exhibitions**
 - All gallery exhibitions at the Neubauer Collegium are curated by Dieter Roelstraete and involve a separate approval process. Please email roelstraete@uchicago.edu to schedule a consultation.
 - Research projects may include exhibitions at venues other than the Neubauer Collegium, in which case no prior consultation with Roelstraete is necessary.
 - Sample exhibition budget available [here](#).
- **Visiting Fellows**
 - Please include a budget for housing, airfare, and living expenses for each visitor.
 - The Neubauer Collegium does not fund salary for Visiting Fellows.
 - The Neubauer will arrange for housing for Visiting Fellows unless advised otherwise by the research team. Visiting Fellows must also have health insurance coverage for the duration of the visit. Sample Visiting Fellow budget available [here](#).
- **Research Personnel**
 - **Postdoctoral researchers or other professional (non-student) research assistants:** Budgets should include a line item for portion of salary or hourly rate and fringe benefits when appropriate. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the postdoctoral researcher(s) and/or other professional research assistants are integral to the intellectual goals of the project. Postdoctoral researchers will only be funded to the extent that they are working on Neubauer Collegium research projects and only up to 50% of FTE. Fringe benefits should be calculated as 24.8% of salary for more than half-time positions (19.5 hours per week) and 7.4% for less than half-

- time positions. Fringe benefits may change from year to year.
- **Student research assistants:** Projects that propose to involve student research should describe how the R.A. position(s) will contribute to the project's research activities and/or assist in the management of the research project. The Faculty Advisory Board strongly prefers projects to consider University of Chicago students for R.A. positions.

What costs cannot be supported in Neubauer Collegium budgets?

- Support from the Neubauer Collegium cannot be used for course reduction, academic leave, or summer salary.
- The Neubauer Collegium does not offer honoraria for faculty, whether based at the University of Chicago or elsewhere.
 - The Neubauer Collegium will consider honoraria for non-faculty research partners (for example, a self-employed artist) on a case-by-case basis. Please include a description of the purpose for honoraria in your budget narrative.
- Publication costs, including subventions, cannot be supported.

If you have questions about what is considered a direct cost of research for your project, please consult with Collegium staff.

Can Neubauer Collegium projects receive support from other sources?

Yes. We welcome additional funding for our projects. Projects with financial support from other sources are welcome to apply to the Neubauer Collegium. New projects are welcome to apply concurrently to the Neubauer Collegium and other sources of support. Other sources of funding should be disclosed and the Neubauer Collegium expects that its support will have a clear and distinct impact on the project.

Can postdoctoral researchers be the only University of Chicago member of a research project?

No. Although postdoctoral researchers cannot serve as the sole University of Chicago researcher on a Collegium project, they can be members of the research team.

Can postdoctoral researchers be paid with Collegium funds?

Yes, with qualifications. The Collegium can supplement existing support for a postdoctoral researcher, calculated as a percentage of their time dedicated to the proposed research (up to 50% FTE). Projects interested in hiring full-time research assistance must explore other potential sources to augment financial support from the Neubauer Collegium.

Are project activities that occur outside of the main University of Chicago campus eligible for Collegium support?

Yes.

Can project activities include teaching and other instructional activities?

The Neubauer Collegium does not provide financial or administrative support for teaching or other instructional activities. However, in cases where pedagogy is the platform for research, we consider proposals that incorporate pedagogy into the research process.

How will Visiting Fellows be appointed?

The Neubauer Collegium can serve as the home unit for academic appointments for Visiting Fellows. In cases where the Visiting Fellow will have teaching responsibilities not directly associated with their Collegium research, the fellow will hold an additional appointment in the relevant academic department.

Can students be supported on a project?

Yes. Project budgets may include budget lines for undergraduate and graduate student research assistants. Student assistants can be hired to support research activities or specialized project coordination. Graduate student hiring may be subject to a collective bargaining agreement.

Can an individual faculty member participate in multiple projects at the same time?

Yes. There is no formal limit to the number of projects an individual faculty member may participate in at any given time.

Can faculty members who previously received support from the Neubauer Collegium apply again?

Yes. There is no formal limit to the number of times an individual faculty member may apply to the Neubauer Collegium for project support.

Are projects that previously received seed-level support eligible to apply for large-scale support?

Yes. We welcome, indeed expect, applications for large-scale projects (\$25,000–\$100,000/year) from applicants who have previously been awarded seed project support (up to \$25,000/year) from the Neubauer Collegium.

Does award of seed funding guarantee future large-scale support?

No.

Does the Neubauer Collegium offer consultation on prospective research proposals?

Yes. Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the Neubauer Collegium about the contact and format of the proposal. To arrange a consultation, please contact Keelin Burke at krburke@uchicago.edu. No consultations will be scheduled after October 9, 2026 for proposals due October 19, 2026.