Global Incubator
Seed Grants
WashU Global

FY2026 Global Incubator Seed Grant

Dates and Deadlines

Proposal Deadlines	**September 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM CST**
Award Period	January 2026 until December 2026
Decision Notification	By the end of the Fall 2025 semester
Award Ceiling	Up to $25,000 for one year

Program Scope

The Global Incubator Seed Grants stimulate high-impact collaborative research linking WashU faculty with international counterparts. Aligned with the university's Here and Next strategic plan, the thematic focus areas are: 1) Public and Global health; 2) Environmental research; 3) Digital transformation; 4) Medical research; and 5) Local-to-global connections. For this year's cycle, projects that emphasize public and global health challenges, as well as projects at the intersection of public/global health and the other areas of interest are especially encouraged. Projects should present innovative research plans with potential for high-impact outputs (e.g., publications and other scholarly contributions) and future funding from external sources.

Proposals should include at least one highly engaged international institution (university, NGO, or industry). This opportunity is made possible with support from WashU Global and the Office of the Provost through the Here and Next strategic plan. These seed grants aim to incubate and catalyze high-impact research across the globe to address humanity's most pressing challenges.

Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator(s) must be full-time faculty at WashU at the time of application and remain so for the award's duration.
- There must be <u>at least one</u> international collaborator (faculty member, NGO, or industry researcher).
- WashU investigators must be current on their reporting from any previously received Here and Next Research Grants to be eligible for subsequent awards.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to justify their proposal's alignment within the Here and Next Research Excellence areas of interest.

Application Information

General Tips & Guidelines

- All proposals must be submitted via InfoReady. Applicants can assign other individuals, such as a lab manager, etc., to submit for them via proxy.
- Applicants should address each element discussed in the Evaluation Criteria in the body of their proposal.
- All responses should be written to be understandable to non-specialists.
- It is <u>strongly recommended</u> that applicants <u>do not</u> repurpose previously submitted grants but concentrate on responding to the criteria articulated below.

Part I: Team Information & Project Summary

- Enter the names, appointments, schools, departments, and emails of the project's WashU investigator
- Enter the name of the staff who will be the post-award administrator, if awarded. This person will be responsible for providing OVCR/RDO with the Cost Center and Project Journal for the award.
- Project Title
- Project Abstract—150 words free of jargon, for a general academic audience
  - This synopsis should be for a lay audience and limited to 150 words. If your application is awarded, the project summary will be published to the WashU global website.
- Amount Requested – Maximum of $25,000
- Here and Next Priority Area Alignment
  - Select between Public Health, Global Health, Environmental Research, Digital Transformation, and Local-to-Global Impact
- Is the research proposed community-engaged? Yes/No

Part II: Project Description

Applicants should consider the evaluation criteria when composing their proposal materials.

Proposal Narrative: In no more than three pages and/or 1000 words, single spaced, please describe the following:

- **Specific objectives and outcomes**: State concisely the objectives and anticipated outcomes of the proposed project.
- **Project's Significance & Potential Impact:** Explain the project's significance, relevance to the Here and Next pillars, novelty and potential impact. Be specific about the expected scholarly contributions.
- **Collaborative approach:** Describe the overall approach and methods and explain the collaborative aspects of the proposed project. Provide evidence and details of the collaborator's role in the agreed upon collaboration, including any resources that the collaborator and their institution will provide.
- **Plans for the next stage:** Explain how this grant will help support future grant applications and outcomes. List specific external funding sources you plan to apply for during or at the conclusion of this project. If you are in a non-grant funded discipline, outline how this grant will enable you to achieve successful future outcomes on a larger scale.

- **Protection of human subjects** (if applicable): For any research that involves human subjects, describe the plan to obtain appropriate Institutional Review Board approval.

Budget and Budget Justification: If there are any questions about allowable costs, please reach out to researchseedfunding@wustl.edu to confirm.
- Up to $25,000 over one year
  - Specify the total dollar amount for which you are applying and provide a breakdown of how the funds will be spent over a one-year period. Please note that $2,500 should be budgeted for the international collaborator's travel to and participation in the 2026 Global Research Excellence Showcase to be held at WashU.
  - Applications with financial contributions from the international collaborator will be welcomed. If the collaborating institution provides fiscal or in-kind support, they should include this in their letter of support (see below).
- Allowable costs are:
  - Non-faculty personnel (postdoctoral fellows, students, and staff)
  - Research materials (such as data sets, lab supplies, etc.)
  - Travel to/from a collaborating institution (including lodging and meals)
  - Survey costs/participant's incentives, IRB application and consultant fees
- Non-allowable costs are:
  - Faculty salary
  - Course relief
  - Equipment or capital expenses beyond $2,000
  - Indirect costs

Part III: Additional Information & Uploads
- **Letters of Support from International Collaborator(s):** Upload a Letter of Support from your international collaborator detailing their commitment to the project, their participation in planned research activities. This letter allows reviewers to understand the level of engagement, joint planning, and reciprocal arrangements to advance the research project. The letter should document any additional funding or in-kind support for the project provided by your collaborator's institution.
- **Upload CVs for each investigator**, both internal and external, combined into a single .pdf file. Include only the most relevant and recent publications and research, no more than 2 pages per co-PI.
- **Upload Other Sources of Research Support for this project**. This should include all pending and active research funding: external and internal.

Evaluation Criteria
1. **Project's Significance and Potential Impact**
   What is the project's significance, relevance to the Here and Next priority areas, novelty and potential impact? Are there specifics about the expected scholarly contributions? What makes the project unique and innovative? Does the proposal address how the research problem aligns with one or more of the focus areas for this year's cycle (public health, digital transformation, environmental research, medical research, and local-to-global connections)?
2. **Collaborative Approach**
   At a minimum, proposals must have one external, international investigator on the project. The

collaboration between the WashU investigator(s) and the external investigator(s)/collaborator(s) should be significant and notable. Proposals should delineate the interdisciplinary, team-based approach that will be incorporated into the project. Is the international collaborator's role clearly explained? Are the international counterpart's contributions essential to the project? Based on the letter of support from the collaborator, what is their level of engagement/commitment? Is there sufficient joint planning or any reciprocal arrangements to advance the research project?

3. **Plans for Next Stage: Scholarly Outputs and Future Funding**
   Proposals should discuss their pathways for future funding and extramural support. How will this seed grant help support future grant applications and outcomes? Has the PI articulated an explicit strategy for securing external funding, enumerating specific funding opportunities? For non-grant funded disciplines, are there specifics on how this grant will enable the PI to achieve successful future outcomes on a larger scale? What is the likelihood that the proposed project may lead to new and varied opportunities for the team and the University?

4. **Clarity and Completeness of the Application**
   The proposed research and collaboration should be complete and clear for reviewers from diverse academic backgrounds. Are the key objectives and anticipated outcomes of the proposed project clearly articulated and specific? Is the project's scope well defined and achievable within a 1-year period? Are there any missing components or any parts of the proposal that are vague or unclear? For any research that involves human subjects, does the PI have a plan for obtaining appropriate Institutional Review Board approval?

Review Process & Timeline

The Global Incubator Seed Grants use a peer-reviewed process with a panel composed of WashU researchers in disciplines aligning with the Here and Next Research Excellence priority areas. The names of the reviewers are confidential. **Please note that the reviewers are senior researchers that are not necessarily experts in your field of research. Therefore, it is in your best interest to define all acronyms, to keep your research plans and impact statements free of jargon, and to ensure that it is understandable and compelling to a non-specialist.**

Feedback will be shared with applicants upon request after the conclusion of the award cycle. We hope to make award notifications by the end of the 2025 Fall semester.

Reporting Requirements

A report detailing project activities, outcomes, and financial expenses will be due 30 days after the award period's end. There will be another follow-up one year after the award end. All reports will be in the InfoReady system.

No-cost extensions *may* be granted in the event of a legitimate extenuating circumstance. Requests for NCEs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are not automatic. Regardless of the status of the NCE, investigators must submit a report detailing their progress at the end of the period of performance.

Questions and More Information

For questions about this or other Here and Next Research Grants or InfoReady, please reach out to researchseedfunding@wustl.edu. For questions about global engagement opportunities more broadly than this call or for connections to international collaborators, reach out to global@wustl.edu.