



CAUSE RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE SEED GRANTS

AY 2025-2026

Call for Applications: Seed Grant Opportunity for Online Research Collaborative
(Lab) Activities and Resources



INTRODUCTION

The Cause Research Institute (CRI) is pleased to announce a Seed Grant opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators who are in need of funding for their collaborative research activities and/or are interested in contributing to the development of resources and guides that support the creation, implementation, and sustainability of online, student-focused research labs.

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INVITATION TO APPLY

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

We are seeking applicants who are passionate about building faculty and staff research capacity at National University (NU) as well as expanding student engagement in research. Selected grantees will receive funding to support their research lab efforts as well as draft practical, shareable guides that will benefit the broader NU community and help advance the CRI's mission to foster inclusive and innovative research experiences for all learners.

Project focus areas may include, but are not limited to:

- Funding team(s) of student, faculty, and staff research efforts related to one or more of the CRI's core research areas.
- Designing materials for launching an online, student-focused research lab.
- Evaluation of best practices and policies for student engagement in virtual research.
- Piloting infrastructure, tools, and platforms for online collaboration.
- Examining faculty/staff roles in maintaining and scaling student-focused lab efforts.

Amount: Up to \$5,000

Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/cj50s09rFK>

Application Deadline: October 10, 2025 | 11:59 PM Pacific

CORE AREAS OF RESEARCH

STUDENT SUCCESS SCIENCE

HEALTHCARE INNOVATION
AND DELIVERY

BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE,
AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

MILITARY LEARNERS AND
VETERAN TRANSITION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
NEEDS AND INDUSTRY
ALIGNMENT

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND
LEARNING LIFELONG

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the maximum value of each grant?

\$5,000

2. Is there a maximum number of group members on a submission team?

No, but we recommend you keep the group number manageable.

3. Will there be progress review/update meetings?

Yes, these meetings will be scheduled by the CRI, they will take place quarterly, and each team will be asked to submit a progress report.

4. What are considered allowable expenses?

Direct and indirect expenses related to each project approved in advance by the CRI.

5. Can the applicant be either a staff, faculty, or administrator of National University?

Yes.

6. Can National University students participate in this seed grant funding opportunity?

Absolutely! These labs are meant to be student-centered. In this approach you are encouraged to include and mentor students in your collaborative efforts.

7. Can external colleagues be collaborators in this seed grant funding opportunity?

Yes, but the lead applicant must be an NU employee.

8. How will the grant funds be disseminated?

Awardees will be reimbursed for CRI-approved expenses, or the CRI can pay directly for approved expenses.

9. By what date must the final report be submitted?

The CRI would like final deliverables completed by June 30, 2026. However, we understand that the extent of the work may carry over into the next academic year. If so, the CRI will work collaboratively with recipients to complete their deliverables.

10. What should I do if I have additional questions?

Email your question(s) to cri@nu.edu.

MEET THE CRI TEAM



Candace Sheppard
Pre-Award Grants Manager



Michelle Hills
AVP, Sponsored Programs



Sherille Sangalang
Post-Award Grants Manager



Athena McGhan
Student Engagement & Research Manager



Heather Hussey
AVP, Operations



A WORD FROM OUR EVP

At National University, we are committed to fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and collaboration that directly benefits our students and the communities we serve. The Cause Research Institute (CRI) embodies this mission by providing opportunities for our faculty, staff, administrators, and students to engage in meaningful research that has lasting impact.

Through this Seed Grant program, we are excited to support projects that not only advance knowledge but also contribute to building sustainable, student-focused research labs in the online environment. These initiatives are essential to ensuring that our learners, no matter where they are, can actively participate in and benefit from the research enterprise.

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to pursue bold ideas, collaborate across disciplines, and contribute to resources that will empower the next generation of researchers. Together, we can continue to strengthen National University's legacy as a leader in innovative, student-centered research.

- Dr. Thomas Stewart, Executive Vice President, Cause Research Institute

THANK YOU!

