

Call for Proposals  
*Global Incubator Seed Grants Fund*  
Amount: \$10,000 - \$25,000  
Deadline: July 1, 2021

## Overview

The McDonnell International Scholars Academy is pleased to launch a new *Global Incubator Seed Grants Fund*. Our goal is to stimulate high-impact research projects in any discipline linking WashU faculty and international collaborators. Proposals should include at least one international collaborator, with preference given to projects involving faculty from McDonnell Academy [partner institutions](#) (other institutions beyond that are welcome). Projects that involve collaborations in Africa and Latin America will be given additional preference.

## Funding

Two types of seed grants are available to support faculty research initiatives responsive to this call. We anticipate funding up to 10 proposals at **\$10,000** each and up to 6 proposals at up to **\$25,000** each. Funding is for 1 year only.

## Eligibility

- The principal investigator must have a full-time faculty appointment at Washington University in St. Louis.
- Research projects must include at least one international faculty collaborator.

## Project Requirements

- Collaborative research, involving at least one highly engaged international partner. Preference will be given to projects that are likely to cultivate meaningful, long-term ties among our institutions.
- Innovative, with potential for high impact, publications and ability to secure future funding from external sources.
- Must include a credible plan to make substantial progress toward the project's aims within 1 year of funding.
- Collaborations that leverage McDonnell Academy [partner institutions](#) or could help establish new strategic partnerships will be given preference.
- Collaborations in Africa or Latin America will be given additional preference.
- Projects can be either early-stage or next-phase research that builds on an existing collaboration.

## Deadline & Submission Requirements

All proposals must be submitted by email to [global@wustl.edu](mailto:global@wustl.edu) by noon (CST) on **Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021** with “Proposal Submission” in the subject line.

Proposals must be a single PDF or word file including the following:

- **WashU applicant information:** principal investigator’s name, title/position, school, terminal degree and field of study, and email.
- **International collaborator’s information:** name, title/position, institution, terminal degree and field of study, and email.
- **Title and abstract:** synopsis for a lay audience, limited to 150 words.
- **Description:** maximum 1,000 words including the following:
  - *Specific aims:* State concisely the goals and expected outcomes of the proposed project.
  - *Significance & impact:* Explain the project’s significance, novelty and potential impact.
  - *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.
  - *Plans for next-stage funding:* Explain how this grant might help support future grant applications.
  - *Protection of human subjects (if applicable):* For any research that involves human subjects, describe the plan to obtain appropriate Institutional Review Board approval.
- **Budget:** specify the dollar amount for which you are applying and a breakdown of how the funds will be spent over a one-year period.

## Contact

Questions about this Call for Proposals can be directed to Roumy Theunissen at [rtheunissen@wustl.edu](mailto:rtheunissen@wustl.edu).

## About the McDonnell Academy

Since its founding in 2005, the McDonnell International Scholars Academy has forged partnerships with more than thirty premier research universities around the world. The Academy has a dual mission. First, we recruit top scholars from partner universities and mentor them as they pursue graduate and professional degrees at Washington University, preparing them to become future global leaders. Second, we leverage the Academy’s international partnership network to incubate new ideas and foster collaborative research across countries and disciplines.

For more information: [mcdonnell.wustl.edu](http://mcdonnell.wustl.edu)

### FAQs

- **Does my international collaborator need to be from a McDonnell Academy partner institution?**  
No, projects involving any international collaborator will be considered. However, preference will be given to projects that include faculty from McDonnell Academy partner institutions as well as to projects that involve collaborations in Africa or Latin America.
- **What should my budget include?**  
Funding will be provided for items essential to conduct the project. Allowable expenses include, participant's incentives, IRB applications, consultation fees, travel to and from a collaborating institution, lodging and meals for PI/Co-PIs and supplies.
  - We discourage faculty from putting their salary/allocation on the proposal.
  - The expectation is that the funds should stay at WashU. Payment to other institutions should be through a subaward or agreement.
  - Indirect costs should generally be limited to 10%.
  - We reserve the right to modify budgets or deny funds for certain expense types if they do not meet university policies.
- **How will projects be evaluated?**  
Applications will be assessed based on: (a) the project's significance and potential impact; (b) collaborative approach; (c) ability to secure next-stage funding; (d) clarity and completeness.
- **What is the timeline for the current application cycle?**
  - Deadline to apply: **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
  - Decisions expected: **late August, 2021**
  - Project start date: **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
- **Do I need to include a letter of support from my international collaborator?**  
A letter of support from your international collaborator is not required but recommended as evidence of the agreed upon collaboration. If you provide one, it will be considered as part of your application.
- **Should I provide a bibliography, and will it count towards the word limit?**  
A bibliography is not required. If you include one, it will not count towards the word limit.
- **Do I need to submit biosketches for all investigators?**  
No, but all collaborators must be clearly identified with the following information: name, title, institution, terminal degree and field of study, and email. Additional details about your collaborator's expertise relevant to the project can be provided in the description.
- **Does my project need to be completed within 1 year?**  
This grant's duration is 1 year and non-renewable. You will be expected to report on progress at the end of the year. Your stated aims should be feasible to accomplish within this timeframe. Adjustments in the timeframe due to the Covid-19 pandemic or other factors may be made with prior approval. To continue the work beyond the pilot grant period, you will need to secure funding from other sources.
- **Can I submit multiple applications?**  
Yes, you can be a co-PI on multiple applications, provided that the projects are sufficiently different.