NEW MEXICO RESEARCH GRANT

The New Mexico Research Grant (NMRG) is designed to assist students with large projects that require substantial funding. It was created to encourage students to work with state agencies that directly benefit the state of New Mexico and New Mexican residents. The New Mexico Research quasi-endowment began with funding allocated to the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico (GPSA) by the New Mexico State Legislature in 2000. The quasi-endowment is managed by the University of New Mexico Foundation on behalf of GPSA. Each year a small spending allowance from the endowment, along with substantial contributions from New Mexico State Legislature allocations, fund grant activities of our organization.

According to our most recent Annual Endowment Report, the market value of this account is $874,735.39. GPSA is asking for a one-time match of $874,735.39 from the New Mexico State Legislature in order to offer graduate and professional students more opportunities to conduct their research. This is important because as the graduate and professional student enrollment increases (20% in the 2021 – 2022 Academic Year), GPSA has seen an increase in grant applicants. It is important to fund the individuals that conduct research that directly benefits the state of New Mexico and its constituents. This match will help GPSA to fund many graduate and professional students for years to come.

Only University of New Mexico students enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program will be eligible for the grant, so long as the student participates in a research project that benefits the state of New Mexico. Research projects conducted with a state agency, nonprofit, or community organization are eligible for up to $5000 per year, while general research projects are eligible for up to $3000 per year. In the Fall Semester of 2021, approximately $47,920 was awarded to 14 graduate and professional students.¹

Eligible Research Expenses:

- Permanent equipment not available from the applicant(s)’ UNM Department, or not otherwise available for use by the applicant(s).
- Computer software not available at CIRT or at the applicant(s)’ UNM Department, or not otherwise available for use by the applicant(s).
- Room, board, and travel expenses to and from research facilities or field sites outside of Albuquerque.
- Supplies and consumables necessary for the research project and not readily supplied by the applicant(s)’ UNM Department or not otherwise available for use by the applicant(s).
- Transcription expenses.
- Research projects commenced within the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

Ineligible Research Expenses:

- Salaries or stipends.
- Travel expenses or other fees associated with a conference.
- Travel, room, and board expenses for workshops or clinicals.
- The purchase of computers.
- Tuition and supplies/books for classes.
- Any publication or subscription costs.²

The New Mexico Research Grant will be administered through the same process/cycle as all other GPSA Grants. Grants applications will be anonymously reviewed and scored by three Grant Readers. The Grant Readers will evaluate
the applications based on the detailed information provided in Statement of Proposal and the Budget Sheet. For instance: If a student is attending a research conference where they are presenting research, then they need to provide some background information about their degree, research, the conference they are attending, benefits of proposed activity to applicant and the detailed, economical, and well-researched budget of all the potential costs.

The raw scores obtained from the three different readers will be normalized by multiplying by the average of all reader scores and then dividing by the average of the individual reader’s scores. When the difference between the high and low normalized scores for an application exceeds twenty-five points of the total possible score (100 points), two (2) additional readers will evaluate the proposal. From these five (5) normalized scores, the highest and lowest will be dropped, and the three (3) remaining scores will be accepted regardless of the spread between them.

GPSA relies on the support of graduate students in evaluating and scoring the applications. The application will be read and scored by three (3) readers from a different department than the applicant. The scoring process will take 3-4 weeks. Raw scores obtained from reader’s are normalized by using the formula below. The normalized ranking determines who is funded. Applications will be sent for rereads when there are 25-point differences between the highest and lowest normalized scores.

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\frac{\text{Normalized score}}{\text{Reader average}} = \frac{(\text{Raw score}) \times (\text{Group average})}{\text{Reader average}}
\]

**TOTAL ASK: ONE-TIME AMOUNT OF $874,735.39**

**REFERENCES**

1. [https://gpsa.unm.edu/funding/grants-funding/grant-scholarship.html](https://gpsa.unm.edu/funding/grants-funding/grant-scholarship.html)
2. [https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/Home/Scholarships](https://unmgpsagrants.awardspring.com/Home/Scholarships)
3. [https://gpsa.unm.edu/funding/grants-funding/grants-scores.html](https://gpsa.unm.edu/funding/grants-funding/grants-scores.html)