

James Scholar Project Grant: 2025-2026



FAA James Scholar Project Grants

The purpose of the James Scholar Project Grant Program is to support outstanding James Scholars in their pursuit of scholarly research or creative projects that are related to their academic research goals. Awards are meant to cover travel costs (to conferences or workshops), expendable materials (not equipment) and living expenses incurred during academic breaks (winter break or summer terms). Funds will not be approved to subsidize UIUC study abroad courses or to subsidize unpaid internships. Applicants must have faculty support or mentoring for the duration of their proposed research or creative work. All students participating in the FAA James Scholar Program are invited to apply.

Applicants are also required to display and discuss their research at one of our FAA James Scholar Events—either Fall or Spring. Alternatively, you may choose to display your work at the campus-level Undergraduate Research Symposium that happens each Spring. Please note that the display of your work at either of these research venues is a requirement of this grant, and students may be dropped from the program if this requirement is not fulfilled.

Applicants are asked to provide the following information:

- In 500 words or less, provide a description or abstract of your project. Please include information about the significance of this project to a broader audience and the specific methods you will use to implement it.
- In an additional 500 words or less, tell us why your project should be funded by the FAA James Scholar Project Grant Program. Explain how your project fits into your academic goals and how your project would be enriched by the award. Provide specific detail on what the award would support you to do (i.e., purchase research supplies, travel to present or perform your work, execute research, etc.). If you request a travel award, include the details of your travel plan. Requests for travel to participate in a conference are welcome, but travel should relate to the current semester.
- Have you received James Scholar Research or Project Support in the past? If so, how was it used, and why should a second award be funded?
- Provide an itemized budget of how the funds will be used. Explain how the budgeted costs relate to the project. For research support, include costs of professional supplies (not books) and reproduction. For travel awards, include costs of transportation and accommodations. Also, please indicate (1) any other funding you may be receiving, (2) how costs exceeding the award will be covered.
- Please upload a resume that includes work experience, campus and community activities, and university honors and awards.
- Please provide a letter of support from a faculty member by requesting that your faculty mentor email directly to Sr. Assistant Dean/Honors Dean, Zelda Gardner, zgardner@illinois.edu.

We have a rolling application cycle, so when you are prepared, please complete an online application at <https://go.illinois.edu/JSProjectGrant>. You will hear back with a decision within 2 weeks.

Note: As you develop your budget, please be aware of the following restrictions on James Scholar funds. Funds cannot be used for: unpaid internships, study abroad expenses, personal equipment, housing expenses without a valid receipt or food.