

**Undergraduate Research Programs
Independent Research Grant
Application Instructions
Updated October 24, 2025**

Independent Research Grants, administered by Undergraduate Research Programs (URP) in Emory College's [Pathways Center](#), support independent research led by Emory undergraduate students in Emory's College of Arts and Sciences (ECAS). Proposed projects should be independent inquiries led by the undergraduate student and should be endorsed and supported by an Emory faculty mentor. Projects may take place in the fall, spring, or summer.

Eligibility

- Any current undergraduate student enrolled in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences (ECAS) may apply if they have not already received an Independent Research Grant.
- Seniors may apply for an Independent Research Grant if the research project concludes by their expected graduation date. No awards can be disbursed to a student after graduation.
- Both domestic and international students may apply.
- If the research project is located outside the United States, the country must have a [U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory Level of 1 or 2](#).

Deadlines

- For the 2025-2026 Academic Year, applications will be accepted between Monday, September 22, 2025, to Thursday, May 28, 2026 (11:59 PM ET).
- The application will be closed from Friday, May 29, 2026, to Sunday, August 2, 2026.
- Independent Research Grant applications should be submitted at least two months before the research begins.

Awards

- Up to \$1,000 for a domestic research project (i.e., located in the United States)
- Up to \$2,500 for an international research project (i.e., located outside the United States)

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Undergraduate Research Programs (URP) office relies on your Emory Faculty Mentor to determine the merit and viability of your research project. The role of URP is to assess the completeness of the application.
- Award decisions are determined based on the following criteria:
 - Meeting all eligibility criteria for the Independent Research Grant,
 - Submitting a complete application in [CollegeConnect](#),

- Receiving an endorsement from an Emory Faculty Mentor of your choosing, and
- If the research project takes place outside the United States, the country must have a [U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory Level of 1 or 2](#).

Application Timeline

- Completed applications will be reviewed within approximately 2–3 weeks from the time of submission. Applicants will be notified by email when their application has been reviewed.
- Independent Research Grants will be disbursed within approximately 3–4 weeks from the time of the award decision notification. Funds will be disbursed to the Emory Faculty Mentor or their department, who are then responsible for coordinating purchases and reimbursements with the student awardee.
- Award recipients are required to submit a brief reflection and a photo of their experience via the **Post-Independent Research Reflection Form**. The deadline to submit the Post-Independent Research Reflection Form is 2 weeks after the conclusion of the awardee's research project.

Application Review

Completed applications will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator of Undergraduate Research Programs (URP), Emory College Pathways Center.

Funding Disbursal

Undergraduate Research Programs (URP) will disburse Independent Research Grants to the Emory Faculty Mentor or their department, who are then responsible for coordinating purchases and reimbursements with the student awardee.

Eligible Expenses

Expenses that can be funded by an Independent Research Grant include:

- Transportation (e.g., airfare, Uber/Lyft, car rental)
- Meals
- Housing/Lodging (e.g., hotel, Airbnb)
- Specialty supplies (e.g., reagents or other materials needed for specific projects; not for general use)
- Payments to human participants or purchase of animals
- Photocopies of research documents taken at research site
- Production costs for creative arts project
- Approved books not available at Emory libraries

Ineligible Expenses

Expenses that cannot be funded by an Independent Research Grant include:

- Photocopying costs of materials from the Emory library or a local library
- Purchase of equipment (e.g., cameras, computers, printers)
- Books or materials available at Emory's library or through interlibrary loan.
- General purpose research supplies shared by multiple users or projects
- Research expenses at a university other than Emory University
- Printing and production of senior honors thesis
- Travel to conferences (Please apply for a Conference Presentation Grant instead.)
- Additional training (e.g., workshop or professional development fees)

Post-Award Reflection

Awardees agree to submit a Post-Award Reflection and a photo within 2 weeks of project completion. Below are the items requested in the Post-Award Reflection.

- Name of Research Project
- Starting Date of Research Project
- Ending Date of Research Project
- Briefly describe what you accomplished in this research project.
- How has this research project informed your next steps, academically and/or professionally?
- Photo Upload - Please upload a photo of yourself engaged in some aspect of your research project. This image helps document your experience and may be featured in Pathways Center materials to highlight the achievements of Independent Research Grant recipients. Your photo demonstrates how the Pathways Center supports Emory students.
 - Ensure the photo is appropriate for professional use and that you have permission from any other individuals who appear in the image.
 - By uploading a photo, you give Emory permission to use the photo in promotional material.
- Please write a caption for your photo to explain the context.

Questions/Concerns?

- If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to Undergraduate Research Programs (URP), Emory College Pathways Center, at ec.urp@emory.edu.