



Harvard College

Yun Family Research Fellows Fund for Revolutionary Thinking

2023-2024 Application Instructions

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Yun Family Research Fellows Fund for Revolutionary Thinking is designed to support undergraduate scholars of talent and promise who want to explore the theory and practice of tackling the world's problems through bold, innovative, and novel research projects of their own design. The award promotes creative and unconventional approaches that display a high degree of originality and intellectual depth. All disciplines are eligible for consideration, and projects may encompass inter- and multi-disciplinary permutations. Projects also may serve as the foundation for undergraduate thesis submission, as approved by academic departments.

COMPONENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Stipends of up to \$5,000 will be made for preliminary project planning and development during the academic year, with the possibility of renewal for up to \$5,000 in the subsequent summer cycle (based on evidence of forward momentum on project design and development in the first cycle) for applying a methodological approach to first-stage realization of the plan. The renewal implementation award will cover subsistence expense and associated housing costs during the summer as well as direct operational costs associated with the implementation plans.

The first cycle of the award ("planning") is designed specifically for supporting an extensive literature review, preliminary data collection and analysis, and implementation design. The second cycle of the award ("implementation") is designed to provide financial support for an initial operational launch of the project that has been defined and evaluated to be operationally viable.

Revolutionary Thinking awards may be used independently or in conjunction with other institutional undergraduate research activities that support undergraduate research projects (e.g., affiliation with Harvard i-Lab, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, etc.), particularly those that are creative and entrepreneurial in nature. In addition, the implementation awards may be used in conjunction with participation in the programs of Harvard College Summer Undergraduate Research Village (PRISE, BLISS, PRIMO, SHARP, SURGH, SPUDS).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is limited to Harvard College continuing undergraduates in good standing (i.e., not involved in a disciplinary case or subject to academic review).

Planning awards (first cycle):

- Devote at least twelve weeks of part-time effort beginning first day of the Spring term in January, through the spring term to the project;
- A status report will be due March 1, and a final report will be due following the culmination of the project, by May 1.

Renewal implementation awards (second cycle):

- Submit a proposal by May 1 with a methodological approach for first-stage implementation;
- Devote at least ten weeks of full-time effort beginning June 1 (or aligned with the schedule of the Summer Undergraduate Research Village);
- Submit a mid-term report by July 10, and a final report due October 1;
- Unexpended second cycle funds still may be used after October 1 to follow through on the implementation plan.



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Research Fellows may be invited to participate in a virtual or in-person meeting with other selected recipients of the award and the donors of the Yun Family Research Fellows Fund for Revolutionary Thinking following the award.

***NOTE: Fellows who receive second-cycle funding may not enroll in summer school courses, prepare for the summer MCAT exam or other summer graduate school entrance exams, or engage in full-time public service projects if they affiliate with the Summer Undergraduate Research Village.**

BENEFITS

Stipends of up to \$5,000 will be made available in January for preliminary project planning and development through May, with the possibility of renewal for up to \$5,000 in the subsequent summer cycle, June through August (based on evidence of forward momentum on project design and development in the first cycle), for applying a methodological approach to first-stage realization of the plan. The second cycle implementation award of up to an additional \$5,000 will cover subsistence expenses and associated housing costs during the summer as well as publication and dissemination of findings. Stipend augmentation will be considered for team projects, both for the preliminary award and the subsequent summer implementation award.

If conjoined with a Summer Undergraduate Research Village program for the implementation phase, the award will provide a stipend, housing, and food for the stipulated ten-week timeframe of the affiliated program, in exchange for participation as a program fellow during the second cycle of the award.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Since the primary purpose of the program is to engage creative thinking in research methodologies and the collection of data that supports a subsequent implementation plan, a successful application will demonstrate the following:

1. A strong dedication to developing or furthering academic interest and excellence in research dedicated to global challenges, entrepreneurship, and unconventional approaches;
2. A documented plan of action to explore the problem, define a data collection strategy;
3. If choosing to affiliate with the Summer Undergraduate Research Village, the ability and desire to participate actively and enthusiastically in a diverse residential community of scholars;
4. An academic record demonstrating success in coursework that supports the development of theoretical knowledge and/or practical application of intended research principles.

Evaluation of applicants will be based on how well and how effectively the components of the application define and address these qualities and requirements.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND ORGANIZE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

■ APPLICATION FORM

Complete the online CARAT information, which will be compiled and displayed as your application cover sheet. For joint projects, each participant must submit their own applications, essay responses, and recommendation letters.

■ CURRENT RESUME

Indicate significant activities, achievements, and experiences in college that demonstrate your interests and potential achievements. **Do not exceed one page.**

■ CURRENT UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Download your unofficial transcript from my.harvard.edu. First-year students should submit the listing of their current course of study.

■ ESSAY RESPONSES (PLANNING AWARDS: FIRST CYCLE)

In a separate document, please provide responses to the following two statements. Please be sure to include your name at the top of the page(s).

1. Briefly describe the concept and central idea or problem you intend to pursue and why. This essay should convince a committee of faculty and others associated with innovation and entrepreneurship that you have thought carefully about the research and methodological approach to capture necessary data yourself and are not simply rewording material from Wikipedia or a lab web page. Please be as specific as possible but describe the research in your own words. If you must use jargon, give your own descriptions of the technical terms you use. Please describe your intended intellectual and entrepreneurial interest, what you hope to learn, and how you expect the research experience may contribute to your implementation goals. (750 words maximum.)

2. Describe the research methodology you intend to employ. Please provide a description of your methodological approach(es), how you intend to collect data, and how you intend to analyze data. Please address feasibility (i.e., is the data already organized or will you be collecting primary source data, are there potential subject or data access issues to consider, etc.), and the general timeframe of the research project. (750 words maximum.)

■ LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation are required. Letters may come from academics, supervisors, or others who can comment on the likelihood of success in fulfilling your project goals, and provide examples of your entrepreneurship, your enthusiasm to tackle big questions, your data gathering skills and your ability to see projects through to completion. Letters may not come from peers (e.g., other undergraduate students or college-aged individuals).

CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS.



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PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. **LOG IN TO CARAT USING YOUR HARVARD KEY** at <https://carat.fas.harvard.edu/> and confirm that your profile information is correct.
2. **"APPLY" TO THE APPROPRIATE "FUNDING SOURCE"**
Fill out all required fields.
3. **REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS (via "References" tab)**
You are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to solicit recommendations several weeks ahead of the application deadline. Once you have provided name (Last, First) and contact information for your recommenders, **YOU MUST CLICK "Send Reference Request"** under each recommender's entry in order for CARAT to send the notification to your recommender's email. **"Save and Next" will NOT submit your recommendation requests.**
4. **UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS**
All documents must be submitted concurrently, in PDF format. No supplementary materials will be accepted.
5. **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION (via "Submission" tab)**
Enter your HUID and click "Submit." The date and time of your submission will be noted, and late applications will not be accepted. Please note that you do not need to wait for your recommenders to submit their letters to submit your materials.

If you or your recommenders have questions about this application or the online submission process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at (617) 495-5095 or undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu.

NEW EXTENDED DEADLINE:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023 AT 11:59PM
(EST)