

UMB College of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Summer Research Awards

Spring 2026

Overview - CLA Graduate Student Summer Research (GSSR) awards provide support to individual graduate students to engage in research and scholarly activities needed to complete their degrees. Funds can be used to make purchases related to research projects, or to fund the student's time. Projects required by the program will receive top priority; if sufficient funds are available, innovative projects outside of a student's degree requirements can be considered.

Eligibility

- All currently enrolled, full-time master's and doctoral students in the graduate programs of the College of Liberal Arts/McCormack School are eligible to apply.
- Students are eligible for the GSSR Award only once during their UMB graduate career.
- Students cannot receive CLA funds in the same year as the OGS Dissertation Award or the MGS SEA award.

Allowable Expenses

The goal of the GSSR funding is to provide support for research and scholarly activities.

- Allowable expenses can include travel to archives and libraries, acquisition of data sets, fees for access to databases or libraries, payments for human research participants, research equipment maintenance and repair, and other similar expenses.
- GSSR funding can also be used for a summer stipend that would allow a student to reduce their outside work hours, or to forego work altogether for some period of time—that would allow the student to make significant progress on their degree milestones, like a master's thesis or dissertation project.
 - If students are budgeting for a summer stipend, they (a) must not already be committed to full-time summer employment and (b) must be residing with the U.S. during the period of employment.
- Funding for presenting the findings of previously conducted research (e.g., at a scientific or professional conference) is *not allowed* under this funding mechanism.

Expense Guidelines

- Because of frequently shifting rules about spending from state accounts, all expenses must be approved in advance. Kim Ho and Eddie Sze in the CLA Dean's Office can work with awardees to determine the best method of paying for various expenses.
- All university business travel including in-state overnight and all out-of-state, and international travel requires prior approval/pre-travel authorization in Concur before booking. Once authorization is obtained, travelers may book their trips through Concur or an external travel agency. If booking outside of Concur, travelers must email their itinerary to Healix at UMass.TravelRegistration@healix.com. For more details, visit: [UMass Travel Registration](#).
- All funds must be expended by the end of the **current** fiscal (university budget) year, which is Sunday **6/30/26**. Certain categories of expenses have earlier deadlines so awardees are cautioned to make arrangements for the funds to be paid ASAP.

Application Materials

- Applicants: Students should fill out the application and send it, with a CV and the advisor and GPD forms, to your Graduate Program Director (GPD) and your advisor.
- Students must complete application form and upload required files using the Qualtrics link (link) by Friday, April 10.
- Your GPD/Advisor/Supervisor/letter writer must submit their letters by Friday, April 17, using the Qualtrics link that you will send them as part of your application.
- No DocuSigned signatures are needed. GPDs express their support of each student's application by submitting their portion of the application to the Dean's Office.
- If you have any questions about the application process, please contact us at cla.dean@umb.edu.

Deadlines

- The student submit the application by **Friday, April 10th**
- GPDs/Advisor and other letter writers must submit letters by **Friday, April 17th**
- Funding decisions will be announced by early May.

**UMB College of Liberal Arts
Graduate Student Summer Research (GSSR) Awards**

Student Application due Friday 4/10/26 by 5pm

APPLICANT

Name

Email

Graduate Program

Mentor's name and email

Brief description of your research (200 words max)

Brief description of the intended use of the funds (200 words max)

Itemized Budget (up to \$4000)

Personnel/Salary Expenses

Consumable Supplies

Research Equipment Maintenance or Repair

Other Expenses

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Due Wednesday 4/17/26 by 5pm

Is the applicant a currently enrolled, full-time master's or doctoral student in a CLA/MGS graduate program?

Is the applicant on academic warning or probation? If so, please explain.

Are there any factors that you would like the review committee to consider in reviewing this application or the applications from your program?

FACULTY MENTOR
Due Wednesday 4/17/26 by 5pm

Is the applicant making progress towards degree completion?

Is this project required for completion of the graduate degree? If not, please describe how this funding will help the student advance in the program.

Does the intended use of the funds, as detailed above by the student, seem well aligned with the program's degree requirements?

Do you wish to make any other comments on the student's behalf for consideration by the review committee?