



Call for Applications Internal Research Fund Awards (IRFA): 2026.1

Applications Open:	Monday, August 24, 2026
Submission Deadline:	Wednesday, October 22, 2026, @ 11:59 p.m. No applications will be accepted after the deadline
Award Announcement:	December 4, 2026
Submission:	Submit online in the IRFA (2026.1) through the submissions portal under Funding at https://research.ub.edu.bz

The [University of Belize Research Policy \(UB-PO-AD-003/0\)](#), approved by the UB Board of Trustees in May 2025, signals the university's dedication to "establishing a robust research culture that adheres to international standards of quality, ethics and accountability" (p. 2). Item 4.4.1 speaks to **Research Support and Infrastructure**.

4.4.1 Funding and Resources: The University provides competitive research grants, access to state-of-the-art research facilities, and other resources to support faculty and student research endeavors (p. 4).

In Academic Year 2026/27, the University of Belize, through its Research Office, will continue to provide support for research activities. The mission of the University of Belize Research Office is to coordinate, build, and facilitate the ongoing development of the human and institutional research capacity, in collaboration with the various academic units and individual researchers of the University and partner institutions, to advance a research agenda that contributes to the sustainable development of Belize.

The support for research is in the form of:

- i. Individual awards for academic staff of up to \$4000 (8 awards)
- ii. Collaborative awards for academic staff of up to \$6000 (5 awards)
- iii. Graduate Student Awards up to \$2000 (10 awards) for eligible expenses incurred by graduate students.

The Research Committee will review proposals and make funding recommendations to the Research Director.

This call for applications applies to the Internal Research Fund Awards (IRFA) for academic staff and graduate students of the University of Belize, as described in the table below, for the 2026-1 academic period.

	Name of Award	Eligibility and Criteria
a.	Individual Academic Staff Research Awards (IASRA)	Purpose: to support the conduct of IRB-approved research projects by one member of academic staff. Eligibility: Academic staff who are employed full-time (permanent or extended contract) at the University of Belize. Expected output: Dissemination of research findings through submission of an article to a peer-reviewed journal and/or proposal to a relevant international, regional, or local conference within a year of completion of the research Costs covered: Equipment and materials for conducting research; field study costs; training essential to the study; permits to conduct research.
b.	Collaborative Academic Staff Research Awards (CASRA)	Purpose: to support the conduct of IRB-approved collaborative research projects by two or more UB academic staff. Eligibility: Academic staff who are employed full-time (permanent or extended contract) at the University of Belize. Expected output: Dissemination of research findings through submission of an article to a peer-reviewed journal and/or proposal to a relevant international, regional, or local conference within a year of completion of the research Costs covered: Equipment and materials for conducting research; field study costs; training essential to the study; permits to conduct research.
c.	Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRA)	Purpose: to support the conduct of IRB-approved graduate-level research projects. Eligibility: Students enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Belize. Expected output: Completed Master's level thesis; dissemination of research findings through proposal to a relevant international, regional, or local conference within a year of completion of the research Costs covered: Equipment and materials for conducting research; field study costs; training essential to the study; permits to conduct research. <i>Bills must be provided for reimbursement.</i>



Administrator of Awards: The Research Office, University of Belize

Submission Deadline: No later than **Wednesday, October 22, 2026 @ 11:59 p.m.**
No applications will be submitted after the deadline.

Online Submission: <https://forms.gle/vVucAuLotKMZGr558>

Number of Applications Allowed Per Applicant: No more than one individual application and/or no more than one collaborative application.

Total Funding Available (2026/2027): A specific budget is approved for each semester. This will determine how many awards can be granted.

Value of Individual Awards: up to \$4000 BZE per award

Value of Collaborative Awards: up to \$6000 BZE per award

Value of Graduate Student Awards: up to \$2000 BZE each per award

Funding Source(s): A specific annual budget has been approved by UB Finance for the Office for Research.

Eligibility

- All academic professionals working full-time at the University of Belize who are responsible for planning, directing, supporting, or undertaking academic teaching and research. This may include vice-presidents, directors, medical practitioners, and other health care professionals, laboratory and field technicians, and other qualified staff who may undertake lecturing or research activities.
- All students enrolled in graduate programs may apply for the graduate awards.
- Applicants with an active IRFA may not apply for another award until the first project is completed and a final report is received. Details for the report will be provided upon signing the award contract.
- Applications from previous IRFA recipients who failed to submit final reports will not be reviewed.
- Members of the Research Committee may submit proposals, but cannot serve on the review board for the cycle in which they apply.
- Academic staff who have signed a contract with an external entity for the work they are seeking internal research funding for must divulge the scope and need

for funding.

- Your dean/director should be provided with a copy of your application, along with a request that they review it and confirm in writing their approval of the project and any departmental resources committed to it.
- All applicants should submit relevant Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) certifications, including *Conflict of Interest, Information Privacy and Security, and Responsible Conduct of Research* and Specific Training. Additional certification in the area of study will be, e.g., *Social-Behavioral-Educational (SBE) Comprehensive, Biomedical, and Animal Care*.
- All applicants should have local, relevant permits from Belizean authorities.

Application Document

1. Applicants must provide the following information in **one collated electronic Word document**.
2. Save the completed file as:
 LastName_FirstName_IRFA_[Type]_Award_Application_Semester
 e.g. Willis_Javon_IRFA_Individual_Award_Application_2026.1
 e.g. Hanks_Jane_IRFA_Collaborative_Award_Application_2026.1
 e.g. Paul_Tanya_IRFA_Grad.Student_Award_Application_2026.1
3. This document should be submitted online via the designated area on the portal at <https://research.ub.edu.bz> before 11:59 p.m. on the application closing date.
4. The document should include:
 - Cover Letter with signature(s) from applicant(s)
 - Proposal narrative not exceeding four pages
 - Appendices
 - ☐ A **timeline**
 - ☐ A **budget** that also provides information about other funding endeavors (if applicable)
 - ☐ A **two-page CV** for each researcher
 - ☐ **IRB approval letter** (if applicable)
 - ☐ Relevant **CITI certification** and other relevant certifications
 - ☐ **Data management plan** addressing data storage, security,

sharing, organization, and transformation.

- ☐ **Conflict of Interest** Statement
- ☐ **Letter of support** from the Dean
- ☐ **Data Management Plan** that clearly explains how data will be anonymized, stored, secured, shared, organized, and transformed. Researchers are responsible for the careful and responsible collection of personal data. Researchers must comply with the [Data Protection Act of 2021](#) of Belize.

Instructions for the Four-Page Proposal Narrative

- a. Describe the project in language appropriate for a well-educated reader who is not necessarily a specialist in your discipline.
- b. Adapt the outline below as needed for your discipline.
- c. Limit narratives to **four typed, double-spaced pages** [12 point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins]. *Applications that exceed the page limit will be returned without review.*
- d. Required Outline (see Evaluation Criteria below for specific details)
 - Type of Award for which application is being made
 - Background, rationale, and motivation for the study. Why is the investigation important?
 - Research purpose and questions
 - Literature Review: What work has already been done, and how will the proposed project build on or contest that work? What is the impact of the project within the context of your field?
 - Methodology: Identification and justification of research approach and design of project; methods, procedures, protocols, and actions for data collection; data analysis.
 - Expected outcomes, products, deliverables, and/or benefits
 - Plans for the dissemination of results
 - Timeline for the project from initiation of work to dissemination of final results. (You have 12 months from the date of award to complete your project.)
 - Personnel involved in the project and their responsibility for elements in the timeline
 - Plans for the sustainability of the project: How will your faculty support the project? What plans do you have to apply for specific external

funding sources or research fellowships?

- At least five references within the last ten years, written in APA 7th edition.

Instructions for the Budget

UB Internal Research Funds may be used for:

- Research supplies, equipment, or services (e.g., lab fees for sample processing) not routinely purchased by a department, including art supplies for those applicants in creative fields
- Local travel at the University approved mileage rates and per diem rates for the purposes of gathering data, consulting archives and collections, or collaborating with colleagues when the necessity of in-person/on-site collaboration is well-justified in the proposal
- Compensating enrolled student research assistants or external collaborators/consultants, ***if the proposal clearly defines the collaborator's role*** in the project and explains why their particular expertise is necessary for successful completion of the project.
- Creative productions (e.g., expenses to stage a new piece of performance art or faculty-choreographed dance could be permissible for faculty members whose scholarly production takes those forms)
- Specialized equipment or software for the project may be permissible if well justified in the proposal.
- Receipts must be provided with final reports.

UB Internal Research Funds may not be used for:

- Printing of graduate theses/dissertations
- Expenses for disseminating the finished products of research rather than conducting the research or producing the creative work (e.g., publication costs, advertising, crating/packaging/shipping for showing or display)
- Conference expenses (travel, registration, lodging, etc.)
- Academic or other staff salaries or honoraria
- Instructional projects
- Events and outreach initiatives, external speakers, food/drink/entertainment expenses
- General-purpose computer equipment (e.g., printers, monitors, laptops, iPads) or software/hardware available through the UB ICT

- Support Services.
- Please see <https://researchwhisperer.org/2014/10/07/simple-research-budget/> for guidelines on how to prepare a budget.

Instructions for the 2-page CV

Please create a written two-page CV using the following guidelines:

Biodata	Name: Current Affiliation: Position: Contact Information:
Education and Qualifications Obtained	
Previous Appointments	
Recent Research Outputs	Journal Articles & Book Chapters Conference Presentations In the Previous 12 Months
Academic Honors And Awards	

Assessment of Awards

Competitive awards will be granted after a two-stage process conducted by the Research Committee:

Stage 1: Assessment of each application using the *Evaluation Criteria for Internal Research Fund Competitive Awards*

- ☐ If the assessed application receives fewer than **38** points, it will be rejected.

- ☐ If the assessed application receives between **38 and 41** points, the applicant will have **two weeks** to resubmit the application for consideration in the award cycle.
- ☐ If the assessed application receives **42 to 45 points**, the application will move to the second stage of the process

Stage 1 Checklist

	IRB approval: Needed for all research involving humans; not applicable for non-human research
	Researchers Identified: Contact details for all researchers
	Researcher Certification: CITI (Conflict of Interest, Information Privacy, Security, and Responsible Conduct of Research) and other relevant certifications included
	Background, rationale, and motivation for the study
	Research purpose and questions
	Literature Review
	Methodology
	Data sources and participants
	Methods of data collection
	Method of data analysis
	Significance of the study
	Budget and Resources: Realistic budget for approved expenses
	Timeline: Covers the period of time for project for project implementation to end
	Language: Well-written English composition
	Outcomes, deliverables, and dissemination: Includes dates and description of intentions for dissemination of findings.

Stage 2: The Research Committee will deliberate on applications that receive 42 points or above for an award, based on the following criteria.

- **Significance of the Project:** Applicants explain the general, academic, professional, institutional, and/or pedagogical significance of their research projects in language appropriate for well-educated, non-specialists.
- **Conceptualization of the Project:** Clarity and appropriateness of the research aim and questions, methods of data collection and analysis, and the viability of outcomes.
- **Qualifications of the Applicant(s):** Subject specialization and methodological competence. CITI certification as evidence of ethical preparation.
- **Logistics:** Feasibility of plans for travel, access, and contact arrangements, materials, timeline, personnel, and permissions or clearances.
- **Budget:** The budget is detailed, justified, appropriate, and cost-effective.
- **Sustainability of Project:** Additional weight may be given to projects with the potential for further development and funding from external sources, including grants and contracts, fellowships and residencies, industry partnerships, private gifts, in-kind contributions, and collaborations with other funded projects.

Final Decision of Award

- The reviewers' decision will be final and conveyed in writing to the applicants.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a fund holder's contract. At this stage, they will be provided with details on the required reporting.
- Awards will be allocated based on the availability of funds for the specific awards within the Research Office.

Useful Resources

- [Informational video on IRFA](#)
- UB Research Office Webinar on Grant Writing by Dr. Jake Snaddon (research.ub.edu.bz)
- Springer Nature Masterclasses
 - Demystifying Grant Budgets
 - Introduction to Collaboration
 - Leading a Collaboration
 - Participating in a Collaboration



- Networking for Researchers
- Relevant CITI Training
 - Animal Care and Use (ACU) (Agriculture)
 - Conflicts of Interest (COI) (All)
 - Good Clinical Practice (GCP) (Health Sciences)
 - Human Subjects Research (HSR): Biomedical and Social/Behavioral/Educational (plus Revised Common Rule) (Health and Social Sciences & Education)
 - Information Privacy and Security (IPS) (All)
 - Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) (All)

For more information, please contact

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Thank you for your submissions and for being part of the research movement at the University of Belize!