

# PROVOSTIAL FUND FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Proposals for the spring semester 2026 (and beyond) are due **Friday, September 26, 2025**

Proposals for the fall semester 2026 (and beyond) are due **Friday, February 13, 2026**

***PLEASE USE THE LINK ON PAGE 3 OF THIS DOCUMENT TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL***

We are pleased to announce that the Provost's Office has made \$150,000 available in Provostial Funds for initiatives in the Arts and Humanities. The amount is necessarily less than in previous years and we are grateful to the Provost's Office for this renewed support.

This fund is intended to support creative, innovative initiatives in the arts and humanities, for projects led by ladder and non-ladder faculty within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and/or other schools. Proposals might include performances, master classes, conferences, workshops, seminars and visits by outsiders. They may involve collaborations across departments and divisions of the FAS and the University as well as with colleagues beyond the University. Although a direct tie-in with the curriculum is not an absolute requirement, proposals that have a clear connection to existing courses, new courses, or pedagogical activities more broadly construed will be favored.

The Provostial Fund also welcomes applications to support ladder and non-ladder faculty research, particularly for projects smaller than those now considered under the [Dean's Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship](#).

The committee for the Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities consists of faculty from various departments in the Arts and Humanities. **Applications for spring 2026 (and beyond) are due Friday, September 26, 2025. Applications for fall 2026 (and beyond) are due Friday, February 13, 2026.** The Committee will meet within one month of the deadline and awards will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

The maximum amount to be awarded in AY2025-26 is \$7,500 per proposal. Normally, proposals received after the deadline cannot be considered.

For initiatives, events, and projects, the Committee will favor proposals that:

- ✦ foster a sense of intellectual community among faculty colleagues and students;
- ✦ have a curricular connection;
- ✦ indicate undergraduate and/or graduate student participation in the intellectual content of an event;
- ✦ lead to or support existing sustained activities rather than one-time events whose trace on campus life is soon erased;
- ✦ promote innovation and interdisciplinarity;
- ✦ propose the prudent use of funds. Honoraria, while necessary in some circumstances, should be kept as modest as possible.

For research proposals, the Committee will make awards in part based on need, thus prioritizing applications from faculty whose own research funds are relatively depleted. In

advance of meeting, the Committee will be provided with the balance of your research account. This information will be obtained from your department and will be kept confidential.

Projects may be individual or collaborative, and costs associated with travel to collections, film festivals, symposia, etc. are eligible. So are publication expenses, but applicants are reminded that tenure-track and tenured faculty have access to [funds](#) through the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as well; Provostial awards associated with publication costs would normally be made only to those who had exhausted that additional allocation. Expenses to pay research assistants are permitted, although faculty are asked to hire Harvard undergraduates or graduate students as research assistants. The Committee hopes that it can fund proposals across all these categories, but if forced to choose, it will give priority to funding travel to do research over travel to present findings.

Please note that proposals must be for activities that have not taken place yet and may not be for retroactive support.

Proposals must include:

- ✚ A 1-3 page account of the event with the following information
  - Colleagues involved: if the proposal involves collaboration, please identify the lead faculty member responsible for all communication with the Committee
  - Goals of the project
  - Anticipated beginning and end date of the project
- ✚ Courses with a direct or indirect connection to the project (not required for research proposals)
- ✚ A detailed budget for the entire project, indicating how the Provostial funds will be allocated. If travel is requested, please specify destinations and all related costs. N.B. The Committee's expectation is that, where other standard sources of funding are available, applicants should also apply to these sources; budgets should list such sources and the amounts requested. It is expected as well that departments will contribute, to the extent that their budget allows, to the activities proposed by their faculty members. Budgets should include specifics, and lack of budgetary detail will harm an application's chances.
- ✚ Before submitting your proposal, please ensure that your Chair (and the Chairs of any participating departments) have reviewed and approved your proposal. Your proposal also requires the review and approval by your Department Administrator, with particular view to logistics and budget. **These approvals can be conveyed by signatures within the proposal itself, or via email to [arts-hum@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:arts-hum@fas.harvard.edu).**
- ✚ In the case of research proposals, no Department Chair approval is required. The approval of the Department Administrator is still required.

If granted, recipients will be required to:

- ✚ Submit a report on their activities, including the expenditure of all funds, within 3 months of the project's termination. *Applicants who have received prior Provostial Fund awards will need to have submitted a report on their previous award before a new proposal is forwarded to the Committee for review.*
- ✚ Return any unused funds to the Committee. If the funds awarded are for an event to be held in the upcoming academic year, unused funds need only be returned after the

event is complete and all expenses covered by the award have been paid. If there is a question about timing for the detailed report or return of funds, please have your financial administrator contact our office.

✚ Please note that research funds may be expended over more than a one-year period and are retained for the duration of the expected grant. Applications should explain the timing of planned expenditures in the proposal.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

If you have questions, please write to [arts-hum@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:arts-hum@fas.harvard.edu).  
Attn: Maysoon Hamdiyyah; Subject: Provostial Fund Query.