Request for Proposals

Rackham Research Endowment Grant Program

Administered by MSU AgBioResearch
Submission Deadline: May 30, 2025, at 5:00 PM (EST)

Introduction

In this round of funding, special considerations will be given to proposals that directly support **graduate students** affected by project notifications that lead to a pause, or stop-work, or termination due to executive orders.

The Rackham Research Endowment was established at Michigan State University in 1937 through a generous gift from Horace Rackham's estate. Its broad purpose is to support research in agriculture and natural resources. MSU AgBioResearch administers the fund to provide **funding for early-career researchers**, enabling them to build the foundation necessary to secure significant external funding and sustain promising research programs.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- Be employed by Michigan State University at the time of proposal submission.

- Hold a faculty appointment in the tenure system, or as a fixed-term faculty, or academic specialist.

- Affiliated with MSU AgBioResearch or the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Award Information

- **Funding Amount**: Up to **$80,000** total per project. If the project is reinstated, funds will be rescinded to assist another graduate student.

- **Project Duration**: For **1 year**.

- **Indirect Costs**: Not allowed.

- **Salary**: Faculty and academic staff salaries are not permitted (excluding postdoctoral researchers).

- **Subawards/Consultants**: Payments to faculty outside MSU are not allowed. Collaborations requiring professional services or consultants (non-faculty) are permitted.

Reporting Requirements

- **Final report** due: *August 31, 2026*.

No-Cost Extensions:

One six-month extension may be granted with substantial justification. Requests must be submitted well in advance to Ani Biswas (biswasa2@msu.edu) and are not automatically approved.

Any remaining funds at the end of the project will be returned to the Rackham Endowment.

Timeline

Activity	Date
Call for Proposals	April 21, 2025
Proposal Submission Deadline	May 30, 2025 (5:00 PM)
Award Notification by	July 16, 2025
Project Start Date	August 1, 2025
Final Report Due	August 31, 2026

Research Focus

Projects must align with the mission of **AgBioResearch and/or CANR**. **Multidisciplinary proposals** are strongly encouraged.

Proposals that fund graduate students affected by project notifications affiliated with pauses, or stop-work, or termination due to recent executive orders will receive special consideration.

This grant program's goals include supporting graduate education, generating preliminary data, and preparing research teams for **competitive extramural funding**.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit, relevance, and funding potential. The scoring breakdown is as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Relevance to AgBioResearch/CANR mission	15
Technical merit and feasibility	40
Investigator qualifications	10
Plans for securing future extramural funding	15
Financial need / link to project notifications	20
Total	**100**

Submission Guidelines

Proposals must be accompanied by a written statement from the Department Chair/School Director confirming that alternative funding is unavailable.

Submit proposals as a **single PDF** to:

📧 **biswasa2@msu.edu**

🕐 **Deadline: May 30, 2025, by 5:00 PM (EST)**

A **Proposal Development (PD)** document must also be routed through **MSU's Kuali Research (KR)** system. Use **Sponsor Code: 018628**.

Formatting Requirements

All proposals must adhere to the guidelines outlined below:

- **Font**: Arial, 11-point

- **Margins**: 0.5 inches

- **Spacing**: Single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs

- **Page Limit (Items 2–6)**: **4 pages maximum**

Proposal Components

1. **Cover Page** *(use template provided)*
   - Project Title
   - PI name(s), title(s), email(s)
   - Academic units involved
   - Date submitted
   - Project duration
   - Total funding requested
   - Proposal summary (≤250 words; in lay terms)

2. **Problem Statement & Relevance to Priorities**

3. **Objectives**

4. **Approach & Feasibility** (scientific rationale)

5. **Anticipated Results & Potential Impact**

6. **Plans for Future Funding**
   - Describe the significance and potential for external funding
   - Include grant submission timeline and target programs

7. **Project Timeline**

8. **Budget** *(use template provided)*

9. **Budget Justification**
   - Include a statement from the Department Chair/School Director

10. **Literature Cited**

11. **Team Qualifications**
    - Include one-page CVs for each key personnel