

# SPARC Graduate Research Grant

Support to Promote Advancement of Research and Creativity

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## Fall 2022 SPARC Application Guidelines

Application Due Date:  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 by 5:00 pm

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## OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research, the SPARC Graduate Research Grant is a merit-based award designed to ignite research and creative excellence across all disciplines at UofSC. Students are required to write a grant proposal describing a project to advance their dissertation or thesis research. Those found meritorious will receive up to \$5000 to fund innovative research and creative projects. The grant may be used to support the student in a variety of ways, including salary, supplies, travel, and other costs essential to promote research, creative, and scholarly activity.

The overall objectives of the SPARC Graduate Research Grant are to provide research support and to encourage outstanding students to develop proposals to enhance their dissertation or thesis research during their graduate career at the University of South Carolina. Importantly, the process of applying for a SPARC Graduate Research Grant will train students to write competitive research proposals, leading to more students with the skills and background necessary to seek national fellowship awards from the federal government and private foundations.

## ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- All Doctoral students in their second year (or later) are eligible to apply (second year students should have **completed** two full-time academic year semesters in their degree program at the time of application). In other words, first year doctoral students are not eligible to apply for the SPARC Graduate Research Grant. There are no exceptions to this guideline.
- MD-PhD students are eligible to apply for SPARC during the first year (or later) of the PhD phase of the program (if following a plan of 2 years of MD program, 3 years of PhD program, and then 2 years of MD to complete the program).

- Master's students in terminal degree programs with a thesis requirement are also eligible to apply (these include the Master of Fine Arts and the Master of Arts in Public History). MFA and MA in Public History students may apply in their first year (or later) of graduate study at UofSC.
- MD and PharmD students are not eligible to apply for SPARC grants.
- Applicants must be current students at the time of application.
- Students must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester post-award date.
- Applicants must have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.0.
- International students are eligible to apply.
- Students may receive the SPARC Graduate Research Grant *only* ONCE.
- Students who have previously received a major federal or foundation grant or fellowship (such as NIH F31 Fellowship, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, etc.) are not eligible to apply for SPARC funding.
- Each faculty advisor/mentor can sponsor only two student SPARC applications each year (i.e. only two students per faculty mentor may apply for SPARC each year). Faculty mentors may not circumvent this rule by sponsoring two students and then having other faculty sponsor additional students for whom they are the primary dissertation/thesis advisor.

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## FUNDS AVAILABLE AND PROJECT DATES

Applicants may request up to \$5000 with a project period of up to/maximum of 15 months. Applicants must provide a detailed justification for the requested funds and may request less than the maximum amount. The project start date is May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year awarded with a project period of up to 15 months. The project end date is July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

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## RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND AUTHORSHIP

All participants are bound by the Responsible Conduct of Research code of ethics, the Carolinian Creed, and the University's Honor Code. Violations of these codes will result in an immediate decline or withdrawal of funding and referral to the appropriate office for disciplinary measures.

The graduate student is the primary author on the proposal and is responsible for writing their own SPARC proposal. Violations related to plagiarism include, but are not limited to, copying text from previous or same round proposals without proper citations, failure to include references or to cite said references, and any other forms of misconduct or misrepresentation.

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## REQUIRED SPARC APPLICATION VIDEO

The SPARC pre-application video is available on the SPARC website. You are required to watch this video prior to applying for a SPARC grant. After watching the video, you must complete a brief SPARC application video confirmation form available on the website. Applications received from students who did not complete the SPARC application video confirmation form may be automatically rejected.

- Only one SPARC Application Workshop is required. However, regardless of the year the workshop was attended, or video watched, applicants (including resubmissions) are required to adhere to the current year's *written* guidelines.

Three SPARC Live Q&A sessions will be offered online. Session dates and times will be sent upon submission of the application video confirmation form and listed on the SPARC website. The Q&A sessions are NOT required; applicants are invited to join one or more to ask questions about the SPARC application process. It will be assumed that you have already watched the application video before joining one of the Q&A sessions.

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## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals must be submitted into USCeRA by 5:00 pm EST on the due date. Proposals received after this time will be declined without review. Incomplete proposals and those that do not adhere to formatting requirements or other guidelines will also be declined without review.

NOTE: While USCeRA submission is required by 5:00 pm EST on the due date, internal routing and approvals can occur after this time. (This is different from the external proposal submission process, where the Sponsored Awards Management Office has a requirement that proposals must be submitted 3 business days prior to the due date.)

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### Formatting Guidelines

- Do not include a cover page.
- Center title at top of first page.
- Under the title, provide student's full name, degree program, advisor's name, and anticipated graduation date.
- **The proposal may not exceed three (3) single-spaced pages.** Proposals which exceed this page limit will not be accepted. All figures and tables must be included in the three-page limit. No appendices are allowed in any form. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in rejection of the proposal.
- **Two** additional pages are allowed for the bibliography/references/works cited; these are not included in the three-page proposal limit.
- Use Arial font and a font size of 11 points with at least 0.5 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- No hyperlinks are allowed.

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### Proposal Narrative – Use Subheadings to Help Reviewers

\*Your proposed SPARC research project must directly support your dissertation or thesis research. The connection between the proposed research and your dissertation or thesis should be clearly explained in the proposal.

The proposal narrative should include the following sections (**3 page maximum**):

#### Background and Significance

- Project topic, research question (or hypothesis) should be clearly defined.
- Briefly discuss the proposed idea and its context relative to the current state of knowledge in the field.
- This section should explain to the reviewers why the proposed project is novel and exciting.

#### Project Description, Design, and Approach

- Provide a detailed description of the **project objectives, the proposed methods and activities**, and the specific anticipated outcomes. The methods and activities proposed should link directly back to the research question/project topic.
- Include a **timeline** for expected accomplishments; presented as a table or other clear graphic format.
- Include a **plan for dissemination of the work**, which should mention Discover UofSC, as well as any conferences or exhibitions where you plan to present/share your work. Targeted journals for publication should be included.
- If you are working with **humans or vertebrate animals**, include a statement within your project description and timeline that you will seek, or already have, approval from the appropriate compliance office and will comply with all rules, regulations, and training requirements. See Additional Requirements for Human/Vertebrate Animal Research for more information.

### Significance of this funding to graduate experience

- Explain how this proposed research, scholarship, or creative activity will advance your graduate education and objectives, bridge your funding resources, or expand your research, scholarly, or creative direction. Explain how this project will directly contribute to your dissertation or thesis\*.

### Bibliography (or Works cited, References Cited, etc.)

- This is not included in the proposal page limit; up to two additional pages are allowed.
- Use the standard convention of your discipline, including the author(s), title or article, journal title, volume, pages, and date.
- Bibliographies are a required component of your proposal. Proposals which do not contain a bibliography will be considered incomplete.

When writing your proposal narrative, keep in mind that each proposal will be reviewed by two UofSC faculty members. Proposals will likely be reviewed by faculty members **outside** of the student's home department, but in a related field. Thus, all proposals are reviewed by experienced researchers, but the reviewers are not necessarily experts in your specific field of study. Make sure that you write your proposal for the appropriate audience.

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## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The Budget Form, the Current and Pending Support Form, and the Authorship Statement are online at [go.sc.edu/SPARC](http://go.sc.edu/SPARC). These forms must be downloaded, completed, and saved as a PDF or MS Word File.

**All of the following forms and documents must be included and completed, or the proposal will be rejected.**

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### Budget Form and Details

An itemized budget and justification for anticipated expenditures must be provided using the budget form on the SPARC webpage. The budget form comes after the three-page proposal and bibliography.

### Budget / Funding Overview

SPARC Graduate Research Grant awards are set up as individual "N" accounts through the Controller's Office. SPARC grants are processed as "E" funds, and all expenditures must be compliant with E fund procurement

requirements. **Food is not an allowable item on SPARC grants.** All budgets should be reviewed by your advisor and department business manager prior to submission.

- Maximum budget request is \$5000. You do not have to request the full amount – request the amount appropriate for your project. (*Requesting less will not change the likelihood of funding.*)
- General budget categories are found in the Budget Form available at [go.sc.edu/SPARC](http://go.sc.edu/SPARC).
  - Only the SPARC budget form will be accepted.
  - Detailed justification is required for each line item.
  - The budget must include a listing and anticipated cost of each item requested for funding.
  - The calculations made to arrive at a dollar figure for each item must also be summarized on the Budget Form in the Budget Justification section.
- If a student has a 12-month Graduate Research Assistantship, the student cannot request salary support, including summer salary. Grant funds cannot be used to increase your current salary.
- **When calculating salary support, use the hourly rate established by your department.** Please ask your departmental Business Manager or Faculty Advisor for salary guidance.
- While the intent is to fund projects at the requested amount, the grant award may be reduced depending on the budget justification provided in the application and/or program funds available.
- Funds may only be used for the awarded student and project. SPARC grants cannot be transferred to a different student.
- Unexpended SPARC funds, of more than \$100, must be returned to the Office of Research at the end of the project period, when you graduate, or when you leave UofSC (whichever is first).
- Materials and supplies purchased through this award remain the property of UofSC (not the student's property).
- Students may receive concurrent funding (SPARC Graduate Research Grants may be awarded in addition to Presidential Fellowships, Departmental Fellowships, or Graduate Assistantships, etc.), with the exception of major federal awards as outlined under Eligibility above. Disclosure of student funding sources is required on the Current and Pending Support Form.

### **UofSC Graduate School Policies Regarding Summer Employment for Graduate Students**

If you are requesting summer salary from the SPARC Graduate Research Grant, please see Summer Employment on the [Funding Processes](#) webpage of the Graduate School website for options pertaining to how you can be paid. Summer hiring regulations are subject to change.

### **UofSC Fringe Benefit Rates**

Fringe benefits are various non-wage compensations provided to employees in addition to their normal wages or salaries. Fringe benefits include FICA (Social Security and Medicare), unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, etc. When you are taking classes, the only cost is worker's compensation. Thus, fringe benefits are calculated differently depending on whether or not you are taking classes. You may find the current fringe benefit rates for UofSC students [here](#).

### **Allowable Costs**

- Student Salary and fringe benefits (*exception: 12-month GRA appointments*)
- Temporary Help Salary and fringe benefits, including undergraduates
- Transcriptionist fees (these are considered pay for service; no fringe benefits required)
- Project supplies, materials and/or equipment, including computer software

- \*electronics or peripherals such as cpu nodes, SBCs, cameras, voice recorders, etc. *may be considered* with additional justification, which should include:
  - item requested including description (*if not obvious to a lay audience*),
  - quantity, cost per unit, and subtotal,
  - purpose/use of item as related to project,
  - is this a consumable or will it be available and have value/usefulness for future projects,
  - other information considered helpful to the reviewers in evaluating the need/appropriateness of expenditure
  - weblink to item is permitted
- Sample processing costs
- Animal maintenance costs
- Publication costs – *if student applicant is first author*
- UofSC Tuition for Special Enrollment Status students (no other tuition costs are allowed)  
See pages 2-3 [of this form](#) for more information on the Graduate School's Special Enrollment Status Policies (also known as Z Status).
- Satellite phones if mandated by the Education Abroad Office for safety and security due to travel in high-risk areas
- Travel as follows but only ONE travel category may be requested:
  - Student travel essential to conduct the project (includes transportation, housing, per diem)
 OR
  - Student travel to present SPARC research or creative work at national or international professional conference or exhibition (includes transportation, registration fees, per diem, housing, association membership fee may be considered *if required* for presentation)  
\*conference/meeting travel requests capped at \$500 maximum for travel within US; \$800 maximum for international travel
- Other costs not specified (if you are not sure if a possible cost is allowable, ask before you submit; email [jmorris@sc.edu](mailto:jmorris@sc.edu))

### **Unallowable Costs**

- Food (per diem is allowed for travel)
- Compensation for faculty members
- Computers/laptops\*

\*electronics or peripherals such as cpu nodes, SBCs, cameras, voice recorders, etc. *may be considered* with additional justification. *See allowable above.*

- Passport fees, vaccination fees, ID cards, travel visas
- Professional organization or association memberships
- Salary for students with 12-month GRA appointments
- Yearly student health insurance fees
- Salary, incentives, or payments to individuals abroad or otherwise prohibited by UofSC policy
- Purchases made prior to start date
- Office space rental

**Participant Incentives Request Process - Departmental Pre-Approval Required; Policies vary by Department – these requests may not be allowed**



- Participant incentive requests can be complex and may not be allowed. To determine if participant incentives are allowable in a certain department, the student must consult with their department business manager. Support may not be permitted for non-US citizen/permanent resident participants. **The SPARC Graduate Research Grant program does not allow participant incentives for participants abroad.**
- **If a student plans to request funds for participant incentives, a letter of approval written and signed by their department's business manager must be included with the proposal** (this should appear in the Letter of Support section). The letter must include:
  - Confirmation of approval from the department/program business manager to include and manage participant support
  - The name of the designated custodian or manager of the funds (A UofSC faculty or staff employee **MUST** be designated as the custodian. Graduate students are not permitted as custodians.)
  - Statement confirming the designated custodian has received training and/or has experience with the participant incentive process

### Current and Pending Support Form

On this form, students are required to report all funding they currently have supporting their graduate education (= Current Support), as well as any funding applied for at the time of application (= Pending Support). Funding may be in the form of an assistantship, fellowship, scholarship, etc. The duration of the funding should also be reported (for example, August 2021 – December 2023).

Once completed, this form must be signed by **ONE** of the following: your Faculty advisor, Department Chair, Graduate Program Director, or department/program designee (**signature is required**). When the form is complete with a signature, the form should be scanned and saved as a PDF or MS Word file. This form is not complete until an appropriate signature is obtained. *\*Electronic signatures are allowed as long as pages can be combined into ONE file.*

### Biographical Sketch

The Biographical Sketch **cannot exceed two pages**. Select the most relevant and significant awards, publications, etc. to ensure that your Biographical Sketch falls within the allowed 2-page limit. Do not include a narrative statement. The Biographical Sketch must include the following information **in this order and in this format** (use the bold subheadings to aid reviewers):

#### **Name**

First and Last Name of Student Applicant  
 Degree Program (ex. Biological Sciences PhD Program)  
 University email address

#### **Education** (list all degrees in the following format)

Institution and Location	Field of Study	Degree	Year
Include current degree program, field of study, and anticipated graduation date.			

#### **Professional Experience** (in reverse chronological order)

List positions held which are relevant to your degree program, at UofSC and elsewhere, with dates



## Fellowships and Honors

List major fellowships and awards received and the date(s), both at UofSC and elsewhere

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

List all peer-reviewed publications where you are the author or a co-author, while at UofSC or elsewhere

## Professional Presentations, Exhibitions, Performances, etc.:

List all professional presentations, abstracts, exhibitions and/or performances, associated with UofSC or elsewhere

## Professional/University Service

List relevant professional or university service activities

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## Authorship and GPA Certification Form

The Authorship and GPA Certification Form serves to verify 1) that the graduate student was the primary author of the proposal submitted to the SPARC Graduate Research Grant Program and 2) the student's current GPA in their graduate degree program.

This Authorship and GPA Certification Form must be signed by both the student submitting the proposal and the faculty advisor. The Authorship and GPA Certification Form follows the Biographical Sketch and comes before the Letter of Recommendation. Because signatures are required for this form, the form should be completed, printed, signed, scanned, and saved as a PDF or MS Word file. *\*Electronic signatures are allowed as long as pages can be combined into ONE file.*

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## Letter(s) of Support (required if requesting participant incentives – otherwise optional)

If you request funds for participant support, you **must** attach a letter of approval to your proposal written by your Faculty Advisor's department business manager (see *Budget / Funding Overview* above).

A Letter of Support may also be included if your work requires a special arrangement for your project to be successful. Such arrangements may include collaboration with a faculty member with needed expertise, access to a certain facility, archive, or lab, cooperation/partnership/approval from an outside agency such as a school, non-profit, etc. The letter should clearly and briefly describe the relevant details of the agreement / arrangement should the SPARC grant be funded. Although optional, you are strongly encouraged to include a one-page Letter of Support if this would strengthen your proposal and demonstrate feasibility. You may include more than one Letter of Support if appropriate.

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## FACULTY ADVISOR

### Faculty Advisor Eligibility

- ***The faculty advisor must be a current UofSC faculty member.***  
Former UofSC faculty members who are no longer employed by the university are not eligible to be a PI on a SPARC grant and are not eligible to oversee SPARC projects. Letters of recommendation written by former UofSC faculty members will not be accepted.
- ***Faculty advisors may only sponsor two SPARC applications each year.***

Each faculty mentor can sponsor only two student SPARC applications each year (i.e., only two students per faculty mentor may apply for SPARC each year). Faculty may not circumvent this rule by sponsoring two students and then having other faculty mentors sponsor additional students for whom they are the primary doctoral advisor.

- ***If a faculty member is planning a sabbatical during the SPARC project***, a Co-PI must be appointed to help oversee the project. This must be stated in the Letter of Recommendation and the co-PI must provide a Letter of Support indicating their commitment.

The Faculty Advisor on the proposal should be the student's primary Advisor for their dissertation or thesis. If a student wishes to have a UofSC faculty member other than their primary Advisor as the Faculty Advisor (and PI in USCeRA) for this grant, then the student must either:

- 1) Submit a letter of support from their primary Advisor stating their approval for another faculty member to serve as the PI/Faculty Advisor for the grant (this is in addition to the letter of recommendation from the faculty member serving as the SPARC faculty advisor), or
- 2) The student's dissertation or thesis committee may approve the appointment of a UofSC faculty member who is not the primary Advisor as the Faculty Advisor for this grant. In this case, the student must provide a letter of support from the Chair of the Dissertation or Thesis Committee stating the committee's approval for a faculty member other than the primary Advisor to serve as Faculty Advisor (and PI in USCeRA) for this grant. (Again, this is in addition to the letter of recommendation from the faculty member serving as the SPARC faculty advisor)

When submitting the SPARC Graduate Research Grant proposal, this letter of support should be appended to the proposal and should appear after the Faculty Letter of Recommendation.

### Letter of Recommendation

Only **one** Letter of Recommendation is allowed for each SPARC proposal. Faculty Letters of Recommendation are limited to **one page**. Letter must be on faculty or department letterhead and signed by the faculty advisor.

The letter should include the following\*:

- How long you have known the student
- Estimate student's anticipated graduation date
- Evaluate the student's degree of independence, both generally and specifically in the preparation of this proposal
- Assess student's intellectual ability, creativity, and critical thinking skills
- Assess feasibility of project completion based on student's degree of preparation and motivation
- Discuss the significance of this funding for the student's dissertation or thesis, i.e. how will this project impact the student's progress towards degree completion
- Any other information that the committee should be aware of
- Please give **one** of the following overall ratings of the student for a SPARC Graduate Research Grant:
  - Very Strongly Recommend
  - Recommend with Confidence
  - Recommend with Reservations
  - Do Not Recommend

## \*Special Situation Requiring Additional Documentation in the Letter of Recommendation

### Student requests funds to attend a short course

The student may request funds to cover expenses related to an in-person or virtual short course. If this is requested, the faculty advisor must state in the letter of recommendation that the course is essential to the project and will help advance the student's research.

### Student requests funds to use equipment and/or facilities not directly affiliated with the Faculty Advisor

The faculty advisor should state in the letter of recommendation that 1) such training is necessary for the development of the student's project, and 2) the faculty advisor has spoken with the Facility Manager or Director, and that this Manager or Director has agreed to train the student and/or to allow the student to use the equipment/facility.

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## SUBMISSION PROCESS

### Order of Documents Required for Submission

- Resubmission Narrative (if applicable – only if resubmitting)
- Reviewer Comments from Previous Submission (if applicable – only if resubmitting)
- Proposal Narrative
- Bibliography
- Budget Form
- Current and Pending Support Form
- Biographical Sketch
- Authorship and GPA Certification Form
- Letter of Support from Department Business Manager (required if requesting participant incentives)
- Optional Letter of Support from other lab, facility, faculty member, museum, archive, etc.
- Letter of Recommendation from Faculty Advisor

### Student Applicant Responsibility

- Student creates **one** PDF or Word file of proposal and supporting materials (in the order outlined above).
- **File must be named after the student, as follows: Last Name\_First Initial (example Smith\_J)**
- Provide electronic file to Faculty Advisor.

### Faculty Advisor Responsibility and USCeRA

- Faculty Advisor completes the Faculty Letter of Recommendation and saves as a PDF or Word file.
- Faculty Advisor appends the Faculty Letter of Recommendation as the last item in the student's completed proposal/application file and saves the entire document as one PDF or Word file.
- **Application file name** must be named after the student, as follows: Last Name\_First Initial (example Smith\_J)

- Faculty Advisor (**not the student**) submits proposal through USCeRA.  
**NOTE: the USCeRA proposal name must be named as follows:**  
**SPARC: Student Name: Title**  
 Ex. SPARC: Jane Doe: The exciting world of graduate research at UofSC  
**It is very important that the title in USCeRA follows this format exactly.**
- For more details, see the SPARC website for the PDF: **Guidelines for Faculty Mentors.**

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## RESEARCH and TRAVEL ABROAD

[sc.edu/educationabroad](http://sc.edu/educationabroad)

All travel abroad covered by the SPARC Graduate Research Grant program (including travel to Canada and Mexico) is subject to the approval and standard terms and conditions of the UofSC Education Abroad Office. Should your travel be deemed unsafe for any reason, at any time (before or during stay), the SPARC Graduate Research Grant program will follow the recommendations of the Education Abroad Office and has the right to deny and/or revoke funding.

- ALL SPARC Grant recipients conducting research or attending a conference abroad are **REQUIRED** to be protected by the “Overseas Emergency Medical Insurance.” You will be signed up automatically. For more information and cost, go to [sc.edu/educationabroad](http://sc.edu/educationabroad) > Resources for Going Abroad > Health and Safety > Insurance.
- Students wishing to travel to a country that is currently the subject of a University Travel Warning must work with the Education Abroad Office to submit a Destination of Higher Risk petition. UofSC issues Travel Warnings based upon destinations for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a high-level Travel Advisory, as well as other sources of information, including but not limited to travel advisories from other countries and information from the travel and insurance industries. For more details, go to [sc.edu/educationabroad](http://sc.edu/educationabroad) > Plan Your Experience Abroad > Apply > Higher Risk Travel. If you have any questions on whether your destination is the subject of a University Travel Warning, please contact the Education Abroad Office.
- It is recommended that students meet with the Education Abroad Office well in advance of submitting a proposal that includes international research to discuss logistical details.
- Morgan Morris Inabinet is the Director of the Education Abroad Office. She is the point of contact for graduate students traveling abroad through the SPARC Program. Her email address is [morris77@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:morris77@mailbox.sc.edu) and her phone number is (803) 777-7557.

### What do I do once awarded a SPARC Graduate Research Grant which involves research abroad?

1. Review Education Abroad “[Resources for Going Abroad](#).” The Pre-Departure Essentials video modules and workshops are required.
2. All SPARC recipients traveling abroad (for research or conferences) must complete the [Graduate/Professional Student Registration process](#) with the Education Abroad Office:

[https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/education\\_abroad/plan\\_your\\_experience\\_abroad/apply/graduate\\_professional\\_students/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/education_abroad/plan_your_experience_abroad/apply/graduate_professional_students/index.php).

3. If you have included travel expenses in your budget, you **MUST** have a Travel Authorization (TA) completed through your Faculty Advisor's department (plan ahead – recommend at least ONE MONTH prior to departure). Take your budget form, which should include the estimates for your travel expenses, to your Department Business Manager well before your departure date to complete your TA.

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## PROJECTS INVOLVING VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OR HUMAN SUBJECTS

### Vertebrate Animals or Human Subjects

([https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/research\\_compliance/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_compliance/))

#### General Guidelines

- If the student's research involves Vertebrate Animals or Human Subjects (including interviews, surveys, or review of personal/private information), **IACUC or IRB approval is REQUIRED prior to receiving SPARC funds and before starting the proposed research project.** However, the approval can be applied for and obtained *after* a SPARC Graduate Research Grant award notification is received.
- The SPARC proposal should include a statement, within the project narrative, that the student will apply for IACUC or IRB approval and will comply with all rules, regulations, and training requirements. Submission can also be included as a task in the timeline.
- When submitting proposal into USCeRA:
  - If the IRB or IACUC approval has been granted prior to submission, the number should be entered into USCeRA during the application process.
  - If approval has not yet been granted, then type "Pending" when asked for the approval number. In this case, the student must email the approval numbers to Julie Morris ([jmorris@sc.edu](mailto:jmorris@sc.edu)) when approval granted.
- If the protocol is approved with the faculty advisor as PI, the graduate student must be added to the protocol (if not already included).

#### For research projects involving live, vertebrate animals

- SPARC Graduate Research Grant proposals may be submitted prior to approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). It is preferable to wait until you have funding before applying for IACUC approval (unless you will conduct the project regardless of SPARC Graduate Research Grant funding).
- NOTE: the grant account will not be established and work on the project may not begin until approval has been received.
- Projects involving vertebrate animals must maintain compliance with regulations, at all times, or funding will be revoked
- For more information and forms, go to [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/research\\_compliance/iacuc/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_compliance/iacuc/index.php)  
You may also call Animal Resource Facilities at 777-8106.

**For research projects involving human participants:** UofSC is required by the federal government to follow strict guidelines when human subjects are involved in research projects requiring Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

- To find out if your project requires IRB oversight, as well as for all forms, guidelines, etc. [please review the IRB website](#).
- NOTE: the grant account will not be established and work on the project may not begin until approval has been received.
- Projects involving human subjects must maintain compliance with regulations, at all times, or funding will be revoked
- For **ALL Human subjects questions**: contact the Office of Research Compliance ([https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/research\\_compliance/irb/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_compliance/irb/index.php); 803-777-7095)

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## RESUBMISSIONS

An important part of the grant writing process is revising and resubmitting proposals that were not previously funded. Students are strongly encouraged to revise and resubmit proposals that were not funded in previous funding cycles. Students may revise and resubmit a proposal up to two times. Students who are resubmitting proposals **are required and responsible for adhering to the current semester's SPARC Graduate Research Grant Application Guidelines**, since changes may occur from previous rounds. However, the SPARC Application video is not required for the new submission (but is encouraged). Previously submitted SPARC proposals submitted as new proposals will be rejected. To be considered a new proposal, the research focus and methods must differ significantly from the prior submission.

In addition to meeting all other proposal requirements, students preparing a proposal for resubmission must:

1. Revise the proposal to address reviewers' comments. Proposals which do not undergo significant revision will not be accepted.
2. Clearly indicate that this is a revised proposal by writing a **Resubmission Narrative** responding to the reviewer's comments and detailing the changes made in the proposal. This Resubmission Narrative must be no longer than one page.
3. Ensure that the timeline and all supporting documents are updated, including budget.
4. Remind Faculty Advisor to update Letter of Recommendation, if needed (*including time known*)
5. Order of documents for resubmissions:
  - Resubmission Narrative (this will be the first page reviewers see)
  - Reviewer feedback from previous submission
  - Proposal Narrative
  - Bibliography
  - Budget Form
  - Current and Pending Support Form
  - Biographical Sketch
  - Authorship and GPA Certification Form
  - Letter of Support from Department Business Manager (required if requesting participant incentives)
  - Optional Letter of Support from other lab, facility, faculty member, museum, archive, etc.
  - Letter of Recommendation from Faculty Advisor

**\*Resubmissions must include BOTH the one-page Resubmission Narrative and the reviewer feedback or the proposal will not be reviewed.**

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR SPARC GRANT RECIPIENTS

- 1) Present research or creative project at Discover UofSC the year following the project start date. *Note: if you are graduating prior to this event, please contact Julie Morris ([jmorris@sc.edu](mailto:jmorris@sc.edu)) for alternatives.*
- 2) Complete yearly online surveys to track student's progress and document any publications, presentations and/or awards, for three years after award.
- 3) Any publications or presentations produced as a result of this grant must contain an acknowledgement of UofSC's support, such as "This work was partially supported by a SPARC Graduate Research Grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina."
- 4) At the conclusion of your project or within 30 days after the end of the project period (whichever is first), submit a one-page description of the completed research project, including an explanation of how the SPARC funding enhanced your graduate research experience. In addition, submit two photographs of yourself, including a headshot and a photograph of you engaged in your research or creative work. *These photographs may be used for promotional materials for the SPARC Graduate Research Grant program.* Submit these items to Julie Morris ([jmorris@sc.edu](mailto:jmorris@sc.edu)).
- 5) If requested, provide a detailed report of grant expenditures. At any time, the SPARC program may request documentation of the use of SPARC funds.

SPARC Graduate Research Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to present their work at a national or international conference, performance, exhibition, etc.

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## CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

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Research and Grant Development  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
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