

Texas A&M University System Research Excellence Fund (REF) Faculty Fellowship Program

The Texas A&M University System REF Faculty Fellowship Program supports short-term research fellowships for faculty to engage in collaborative research projects in laboratories at other A&M System campuses, including Texas A&M-RELLIS and Texas A&M-Fort Worth. The program fosters mobility, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among faculty, enhancing integration across system research environments and enabling new partnerships that can lead to major external funding and high-impact outcomes. Eligible activities include:

- Short-term (one to six months) research residencies at another A&M System member campus.
- Collaborative proposal development, co-supervision of graduate students, or joint publication activities.
- Training or skill development using specialized research instrumentation or methodologies.
- Joint workshops, seminars, or pilot projects to initiate long-term partnerships.

The program limits submission to three lead proposals per A&M System member university submitted by the Vice President for Research (VPR). Proposals may request between \$25,000 - \$100,000 per fellowship. Detailed program requirements and application instructions can be found on the final page below.

Texas A&M University (TAMU) Internal Selection Process

1. Each interested college/unit conducts its internal process and uploads (by the URC Dean) the recommended number of proposals (up to 2 for colleges/units with ≥ 250 Tenured/Tenure Track faculty and 1 for < 250 Tenured/Tenure Track faculty) to InfoReady by May 4, 2026.
2. The VPR Office is notified and reviews the proposals for compliance check (if any issues, the proposal will be declined).
3. VPR organizes a review committee for the proposals based on the review criteria. The review committee may include representatives of University Research Council (URC) and Council of Principal Investigators (CPI).
4. Based on the review committee's recommendation, VPR prepares a Memo of Support for the three selected proposals (based on the draft Memo of Support prepared by the PI) and obtains the President's signature.
5. VPR creates a single PDF version for each selected proposal for submission to the System via email (ref@tamus.edu) by June 1, 2026.
6. For proposals not selected for submission to the System, DOR will notify the relevant URC Deans and PIs of the status of their proposal.
7. For proposals submitted to the System, DOR will notify the relevant URC Deans and PIs of the outcome of the submission as soon as a notification is received from the System.

Important Deadlines:

- May 4, 2026: Deadline for URC Deans to Review, Select, and Submit the recommended number of proposals for their college/unit, for further consideration by the VPR.
- June 1, 2026: Deadline for Submission of Proposals (by VPR) to the System.

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Faculty Fellowship Program

The following will be requested in InfoReady.

Proposal Cost Share Program - Page 1

- Fellow First Name
- Fellow Last Name
- Fellow Title
- Fellow Email Address
- Fellow Primary Organization (College/School)
- Fellow Department
- A&M Host Institution

Proposal Cost Share Program - Page 2 (See RFP for Additional Details)

- Application Title
- Cover Page (*1 page - Word File Only*)
- Project Summary (*1 page - Word File Only*)
- Project Description (*up to 3 pages – Word File Only*)
- Collaboration Plan (*1 page – Word File Only*)
- Milestones and Deliverables (*1 page – Word File Only*)
- Budget and Cost-Share Details (*1 page - Word File Only*)
- Biographical Sketches (Fellow - (*single PDF file only*))
- Letter of Commitment: from collaborator at the host A&M System institution (*1 page - Word or PDF*)
- Draft Memo of Support from VPR (*1 page - Word File Only, to be drafted by Fellow*)