



THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

Call for Proposals AY 2026-2027

humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu

The Humanities Institute invites proposals for the following programs:

1. New or Continuing Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars
2. Faculty Workshop Seminar Grants
3. Guest Speakers and Interdisciplinary Symposia or Conferences
4. Book Development Grants
5. Editing Grants for Humanities Proposals for External Funding
6. Faculty-Student Reading Groups in the Humanities
7. Faculty-Student Collaborative Humanities Research Grants
8. Humanities Matters: Problem-Focused Faculty-Student Research
9. Winston-Salem Partners in the Humanities
10. Emeriti Faculty Research Grants

All proposal forms as well as this CFP are posted at humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu under “Faculty Resources.” Program descriptions can be found under “Programming.”

1. New or Continuing Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars

Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars harness the intellectual energies of the Wake Forest humanities and arts faculty to promote and support interdisciplinary collaboration and research that represents the leading edge of humanities scholarship and creates exciting bridges between different disciplines and units within the University. These groups, which meet regularly over the course of a semester or academic year, receive modest project funds.

Continuing this year, seminar conveners are asked to submit their proposal without a final roster of participants by **May 1, 2026**. Proposals should include an overview of the topic, rationale for the seminar, and a short list of possible exemplary readings and discussion topics for the seminar. The rationale should explain why this seminar matters to the convener, how multiple disciplinary perspectives will help advance understanding of the topic, and why it is worthy of exploration at this time, either due to the academic relevance of the topic, or perhaps the relevance of the topic to our campus.

Typically, 3-4 seminar proposals are awarded funding each year. Seminar conveners whose topics have been approved will be contacted by the Humanities Institute and will be asked to submit a final seminar roster to the HI for approval by **May 29, 2026** (the HI may be asked to help with recruitment). Seminars should include faculty from at least two departments and should have a core of faculty whose disciplines or methods are based in the humanities. Seminars will be capped at eight faculty members, and all university faculty with continuing contracts are eligible to participate.

2. Faculty Workshop Seminar Grants

Faculty Workshop Seminars will create an occasion for accountability, an audience for ongoing work, and a peer community to trouble-shoot the basic mechanics of humanities scholarship (e.g., writing a book proposal, tips for revision, working with theory). The workshop seminars are intended to create scholarly community among faculty at any stage of project development. Groups will convene for one semester and may apply for renewal for a second semester if they wish. Groups will meet and share work in progress a minimum of three times per semester, with each member responsible for presenting work at least once, and responsible for providing feedback to other members throughout the duration of the group. Each member will assess the efficacy of the working group with a written report on work accomplished along with plans for completing projects reviewed by the group.

Typically, 1-2 seminar proposals are awarded funding each year. Workshop seminars will be organized according to the Humanities Institute's faculty seminar model. They should include between six and eight faculty, with faculty from at least two departments. The majority of faculty in the group should be from humanities departments or programs. Workshop seminars can be organized according to topic, stage-of-progress, or any other model that suits its members. Workshop seminars will be organized by a faculty convener, and it is up to the group to determine a schedule for presenting and workshopping their scholarship-in-progress. Each member of the working group will receive a stipend for the semester. In addition to the stipend, the seminar convener may apply for additional funding to cover fees associated with professional consultation (e.g., a press or developmental editor). Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are due by May 1, 2026, with a final roster of participants due by May 29, 2026.** For more information, contact the Humanities Institute Director, Jennifer Greiman.

3. Guest Speakers and Interdisciplinary Symposia or Conferences

- **Humanities Institute Guest Speakers.** The Humanities Institute sponsors and co-sponsors university-wide guest speakers and supports the Humanities Institute's goal of bringing leading scholars in the humanities to the campus and community. Priority consideration will be given to guest speakers whose scope or methods span more than one discipline, and whose topics are of interest to faculty and students across the humanities. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**
- **Interdisciplinary Symposia or Conference in the Humanities.** This program fosters inter-departmental and inter-unit collaboration by co-funding interdisciplinary symposia on topics in the humanities, especially those that are coordinated with collaborative faculty seminars or other research, collaborative student research, or interdisciplinary course design. Support may include funding for a work-study student to assist with planning and implementation. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

4. Book Development Grants

The Humanities Institute offers a book-development grant of up to \$1,000 to be distributed as an honorarium for up to two outside readers of the grant-recipient's book manuscript (\$500 per reader). This grant is available for full-time faculty who have completed or are close to completing a book manuscript in the humanities intended for academic publication. Applicants should include a prospectus for their book and should demonstrate willingness from the outside reader(s). Outside readers should be experienced, well-published experts in the scholarly field(s) related to the recipient's book. To apply, please submit the appropriate form along with your book's proposal, and correspondence from the outside reader(s) (emails are fine), including their CV. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

Applicants for this book development grant are encouraged to apply for the College Book Development Fund. [<http://college.wfu.edu/research-scholarship-creativity/funding-opportunities/>]

5. Editing Grants for Humanities Proposals for External Funding

The Humanities Institute provides up to \$500 funding for professional editing assistance on Humanities proposals for external funding. Faculty may seek the assistance of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in securing an editor. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

6. Faculty-Student Reading Groups in the Humanities

The Humanities Institute supports faculty-student co-curricular reading groups in order to give small groups of faculty and students (undergraduates, or a combination of graduates and undergraduates) the opportunity to engage in co-curricular study of select topics in the humanities. The groups are informal, noncredit reading or activity groups comprised of a faculty member and a core of four or more students who agree to meet at least three times over the course of a semester or summer. Topics vary and can be related to a campus event. The Institute provides faculty a modest stipend in recognition of their involvement as well as funding to defray the cost of materials. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

7. Faculty-Student Collaborative Humanities Research Grants

The Humanities Institute funds faculty-student research, scholarship, or larger scale endeavors or creative activity in the humanities, including but not limited to co-authoring essays, conducting archival research, co-translating primary texts for publication, and collaborating on digital humanities projects. Projects may involve individual students or teams of students. Awards can cover the cost of materials (except for hardware), consultations with other scholars, expenses related to publication, travel to conferences, and other kinds of activities. *Faculty collaborating with students who are receiving URECA*

or other student funding are eligible and encouraged to apply for Humanities Institute co-funding. Eligible research projects may be co-curricular or paired with independent studies. Priority is given to undergraduate student-faculty projects. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

8. Humanities Matters: Problem-Focused Faculty-Student Research

The Humanities Institute supports problem-focused faculty-student collaborative research, scholarship, and other creative activity in the humanities that addresses particular social problems or public needs. Topics may be drawn from an array of interdisciplinary areas in the humanities, including humanities and the environment, food and hunger, humanities and human rights, wealth and poverty, humanities and medicine, etc. Awards will be given to faculty-student projects led by individual humanities faculty or interdisciplinary faculty teams that include at least one faculty in a humanities disciplines. *Eligible research projects may be course-generated, co-curricular, or paired with independent studies, and they may involve individual students or a team of students.* Funds can cover the cost of materials (except for hardware), consultations with other scholars, expenses related to publication, travel to conferences, and other kinds of activities. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

9. Winston-Salem Partners in the Humanities

The Humanities Institute fosters and encourages the development of partnerships that demonstrate how the humanities contribute to the common good, illumine and inform social issues, and help link classroom learning to the larger world. Funding or co-funding for collaborative community research will provide the means for establishing links with community partners and will be used for a wide range of endeavors including research on local topics, cultural projects, digital humanities projects, and humanities symposia that bring together scholars and community partners. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**

10. Emeriti Faculty Grants

The Humanities Institute provides research grants to Emeriti faculty working on projects in the humanities that were begun during the faculty's tenure at WFU. A limited number of awards of up to \$1,000 may be used to support project expenses, including travel and publication-related costs. Successful proposals will include a detailed budget, a brief description of progress made on the project while at WFU, a timetable for the work that will be conducted during the grant year, and anticipated outcomes. Proposal forms are posted at <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu> under "Faculty Resources." **Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows through May 1, 2026. Proposals are not considered from May 1st-August 15th. Submissions are considered again beginning August 15th.**