WSU Postdoctoral Fellow Grant Support Program for Research on Alcohol and Drug Addiction

Spring 2026 Request for Proposals

ORSO Approval Deadline: 5 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research Program (ADARP) is to foster research at Washington State University (WSU) that will provide significant and innovative contributions to behavioral, psychosocial, biomedical, or clinical research on alcohol and drug addiction. Research proposals dealing with alcohol or any substance that is recognized by the NIH as an addictive substance as well as behavioral or food addiction are welcome. Projects should be directly applicable to addiction, harm reduction, prevention, or physiological effects of addictive substances. The projects should enhance the ability of the postdoctoral principal investigator (PI) to develop their research capabilities and demonstrate the merit of their research ideas, productivity, and creativity as a basis for extramural fellowship proposals (e.g., F32 NRSA, K99) or grant proposals submitted by the faculty mentor (Sponsor). Questions about the suitability of an application should be directed to the ADARP office at least one week before the grant submission deadline.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications will be accepted from WSU post-doctoral trainees in any department or college on any of the four campuses of Washington State University throughout the funding period. Both US and international students can apply. The post-doctoral trainee may submit only one proposal as PI. US citizenship or permanent residency is not a requirement, but the Sponsor must be eligible to receive funding from federal agencies (e.g., NIDA, NIAAA) as principal investigator or Sponsor. Priority will be given to PIs who have nor received ADARP funding during their graduate or post-doctoral careers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Awards are made for up to 18 months. Support is limited to a total of $15,000. Up to $7,500 may be used for PI (post-doc) salary and benefits. Equipment cost may not exceed $5,000, and the equipment must stay at WSU. Requests for travel to conferences will not be considered. Awards to each research group (Sponsor, direct advisees) will be capped at a total of $65,000 per grant cycle with the following exception: Post-doc salary and benefits count toward the cap, but post-doc supply and equipment costs do not.

This funding mechanisms is designed to promote postdoctoral research projects that have potential to generate extramural funding. Funds may be sought to strengthen an extramural fellowship application that was submitted, favorably reviewed, but not funded. For such proposals, PIs are requested to include a copy of the grant, the critique, and the priority score as well as describe how the ADARP proposal will support the resubmission.

Grant proposals must be carefully developed and written to encourage positive reviews by a study section of WSU faculty knowledgeable in the area of the proposal. Most committee members will have had a national competitive award. Applications that do not follow the formatting instructions will be returned.

AWARD PROCESS

Awardees will be notified in late fall. Awards will be effective on or after July 1st, 2026, pending submission of the relevant human subject research or animal care protocol approval document to ADARP and the availability of a valid DEA drug license in the Sponsor's lab (if applicable).

APPLICATION FORMAT

Note: Grants must be written by the student PI with feedback from the Sponsor. Grants are submitted via e-REX by the home department. "ADARP" must be indicated in the e-REX Subagency field to direct the proposal to our office. All sections of the grant must be received on time for review.

I. E-REX Form with ADARP in the Subagency field – (Submitted to the Sponsor's home department with the application at least *5 business days* before the ORSO approval deadline. Please note, some departments require *additional processing time*! Consult your grant administrator in advance.)

II. Face Page (name, position, department, submission date, proposal title, and abstract)

III. Response to previous critique (for resubmitted applications only - maximum of 1 page)

IV. Specific Aims (maximum 1 page)

V. Significance

VI. Innovation

VII. Approach

> Maximum 6 pages
> For sections V-VII

VIII. References

IX. Detailed budget with brief justification (state dates, post-doc salary and benefits up to $7,500; equipment up to $5,000; supply budget breakdown; total budget up to $15,000)

X. Biosketch (five-page NIH format including other support and overlap with this proposal, biosketch for Sponsor also needs to be included)

XI. Plans for obtaining extramural funding and/or benefit to WSU or to the State of Washington

XII. List of all grant applications submitted in the past three years related to addiction research, if any

XIII. Letter of support from primary mentor

XIV. List of graduate committee members

XV. Names of 5-6 possible reviewers, preferably from WSU (any campus)

REVIEW CRITERIA

The proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. **Significance**. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?

2. **Innovation**. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

3. **Investigators**. Are the PI and Sponsor well suited to the project? Do they have appropriate experience and training?

4. **Approach**. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

5. **Extramural Funding Potential/Benefit to the State of Washington.** Is this project likely to generate extramural support and/or benefit the State of Washington?

6. **Budget**. Is the budget appropriate?

CONTACTS

Dr. Rita Fuchs Lokensgard, Director
Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research Program
VBR 231
rita.fuchs@wsu.edu
Phone: 509-335-6164

Amanda Tanner, Program Specialist
Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research Program
amanda.tanner@wsu.edu

ADARP Website: https://adarp.wsu.edu