

## Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grants - Spring 2026

**Applications for Spring 2026 will be accepted beginning on Monday, March 23, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis until April 24, 2026, or until available funds have been utilized.**

Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grants, established in 2015, are designed to provide additional financial support to Junior Faculty **who do not have significant other sources of current funding** to help complete projects to meet the expectations for tenure. Untenured associate and assistant tenure-track professors, who are not being reviewed for tenure in the current academic year, are eligible to apply. **Faculty members are eligible to receive more than one award during their pre-tenure years, however individuals who have already received \$15,000 in aggregate from this program will not be considered for additional awards unless funds remain after all other awards have been made.**

Grants may be used for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Workshop for a book manuscript
- Some costs associated with book publication, such as translations, indexing, or image and text licensing fees
- Travel / honorarium / etc. for senior faculty in your field from other universities to visit Columbia (this could include organizing a talk)
- Attending an academic conference to promote one's visibility
- Hosting a research symposium or seminar group
- Visiting libraries or research archives
- Launching a research project for which regular funding is not available

Applications may be made for amounts in the range of \$1,000 - \$15,000. Several awards will be made each year to junior faculty across all Arts & Sciences departments and School of the Arts. See page 4 for more information on budget guidelines. Funding for childcare support can be requested [here](#) separately.

### **Considerations used in evaluation of the applications include:**

Strength of the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the project have value in creating a record to obtain tenure?</li><li>• Is the project important?</li><li>• Has the applicant clearly articulated the scope and purpose of the project and its relationship to the applicant's overall research plan?</li></ul>
Funding Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the candidate in need of support? (with consideration of existing funding including startup)</li><li>• Does the particular discipline have few support opportunities?</li></ul>
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the proposed budget reasonable?</li><li>• Considering the cost of the project compared to the benefit to the applicant's career advancement, is this a good use of funds?</li></ul>

Each application must include:

1. **A completed application cover sheet** which includes details about/specifies other sources of funding that will contribute to the project, as well as funds available from the applicant's department.
2. **A brief project description and justification (~500 words).** This should include a clear rationale for how these funds will advance the applicant on the route to tenure.

**Scope, purpose and importance of the proposed project.**

- Rationale for how use of funds will help to advance applicant on the route to tenure.
- Context for this project in relationship to past and future planned work, and the importance of this project at this time in the career.
- Proposed work plan. Steps that will be taken to complete project within time frame and budget.
- Explain other funding sources, attempts at securing other funding, and any alternatives if funding is not received.
  - If substantial startup funds exist in the applicant's accounts, explain rationale for need of Lenfest funding.

3. **A budget justification** for the requested funds. See page 4 for more details.

**4. A curriculum vitae (CV).**

Please return the completed application to your Divisional Decanal Director:

For the Humanities and the School of the Arts: Jessica Lilien (jl3880@columbia.edu).

For Natural Science: Thomas Boag (tb3124@columbia.edu).

For Social Science: Jack Reilly (j42813@columbia.edu).

**LENFEST JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FORM**  
**Spring 2026**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Year joined Columbia Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously received a Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grant?

No ( ) Yes, ( ) in year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Research Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Title/Description of Proposed Project (20 words max):**

NOTE: This title will be used to describe awarded projects on A&S web page.

**Project Timeline:**

**Source(s) of Current Funding for the proposed project**

Do you have any additional sources of funding for this project besides FRAP? Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, please list all, or attach a list of current and pending support for the project and the dollar amounts:

Is your department able to provide a contribution toward this project? Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, please state the maximum dollar amount of the departmental contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have available startup funds in your account? Please state dollar amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Support Requested from Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Funds:** \_\_\_\_\_

(please see "Proposed Project Budget and Guidelines" on the last page)

**Applicant signature/date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read this application and as Department Chair affirm my support for this project/use of funds.*

**Department Chair signature/date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Remember to include a current copy of your Curriculum Vitae with the application\*\***

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### **Proposed Project Budget and Guidelines:**

Types of research expenses to consider for your project budget include: travel, lodging, meals, conference fees, honoraria, supplies, reference material, personnel and equipment. Proposal budget should conform with University travel and business expense policies and procedures (e.g., lodging maximums: \$350/night in U.S., \$400/night International; meal maximums: Breakfast \$25, Lunch \$35, Dinner \$75). Proposed budgets should be categorized by the expenses listed above, and itemized, if possible.

For full policies see <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/administration/policylibrary>

For manuscript workshops, the recommended honorarium per reader is \$1,000. Lenfest funds can be used to support two external manuscript readers with total budgets for these workshops totaling approximately \$5,000 (to include honoraria, meals, lodging, travel, etc).

Funds dedicated to paying research assistants, graduate students, and/or translators should include estimated hours and pay rate, in addition to any related expenses (travel, accommodations, etc). If the assistant, student, or translator has been selected, please include a brief description of their expertise and any previously held collaborations.