

Graduate School GRA STEM & Industry Funding Admissions Form FAQ

A copy of the admissions form is at the end of this document. Please note: there may be some minor edits to the form in the future.

Q1. What is the Graduate School's GRA STEM & Industry Opportunity?

The Graduate School anticipates receiving an additional allocation of funding for the 2025-26 academic year to support STEM-based research and initiatives that engage industry. Faculty, who are affiliated with STEM degree programs and are currently conducting or plan to conduct research in collaboration with industry and/or other external non-academic organizations, may be eligible for funding to support project-related graduate student research assistants for the upcoming academic year through the Graduate School. Please refer to [DHS's STEM Designated Degree Program List](#) for CIP codes of eligible STEM programs.

This opportunity provides funding for graduate research assistantships that are connected to projects engaging with industry and/or non-academic external organizations. It does not require a formal partnership nor pre-existing relationships with industry. **The opportunity requires that students receiving funding are hired into graduate research assistantships and is not a fellowship or grant opportunity.**

Q2. What students are eligible for the Graduate School's GRA STEM & Industry funding?

All new graduate students are eligible for the GRA STEM & Industry funding, including domestic and international students. Students must either be in a STEM graduate degree program OR be hired to work as a graduate research assistant on a project with a faculty member affiliated with a STEM graduate degree program (please refer to [DHS's STEM Designated Degree Program List](#) for CIP codes of eligible STEM programs). Students must be enrolled full time and remain in good academic standing. Students must be hired as a graduate research assistant to receive the funding, and they must be conducting research on a project that engages with industry and/or non-academic external organizations.

Students will also be required to participate in an internship during Summer 2026, and they will receive an additional stipend for successfully completing an internship. Students selected for this funding opportunity will be notified of the terms of funding prior to the start of the Fall 2025 semester to ensure they are aware of the internship requirement, and funding may be withdrawn for students unwilling to participate in an internship.

Q3. What kinds of projects can apply for the GRA STEM & Industry funding?

The project must engage in some way with industry and/or non-academic external organizations. There does not need to be a pre-existing relationship in order to request funding; however, should funding be awarded, documentation will be requested in the future to demonstrate that the project is engaging in some capacity with industry.

Faculty also must be affiliated with a STEM graduate degree program at Clemson University.

Q4. How do we request a new student be considered for this funding?

The form link is accessible on the “Next Steps” reader review form in the application review workflow in Slate. When a program is completing the next steps portion of the application, a yes/no question will appear on the form asking if the program would like the student to be considered for STEM & Industry funding. If “yes” is selected, it will bring up a link to the form. Anyone from the program is welcome to complete the form, and the form link can be shared with whoever may have the information needed to complete the form.

In the case of new incoming students for whom programs have already completed the admissions application form in Slate, student services staff or faculty can reach out to the Graduate School to retroactively add the student for consideration for this funding. In such instances, please reach out to Rieta Drinkwine (rdrinkw@clemson.edu).

Q5. How will funding decisions be made?

The Graduate School will review all funding requests and announce award decisions by mid-April 2025 for students who will be receiving funding starting in Fall 2025. A final decision on the number of awards will be made at the time when all forms are reviewed. Priority funding areas will include: projects collaborating with external organizations in South Carolina, first generation graduate students, students from rural communities in South Carolina, and projects that have not been previously funded through this opportunity.

Submitting a form will result in a student and a project being considered for funding but is not a guarantee of funding and does not result in any obligation or agreement on either the side of the Graduate School or the department.

Q6. How will the GRA agreement be configured?

Departments will be responsible for any hiring paperwork and assistantship documentation, including the GS61 and payroll. The Graduate School will provide information to departments to support the hiring process, including the stipend chart string. Departments are encouraged to supplement Graduate School funding to ensure students receive stipends consistent with other students in the department.

Students should be on a 9-month GRA agreement and receive a stipend of \$20,000 for 20 hours per week during the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters. Students will also receive institutional GAD. If departments provide additional funding for student stipends, students would not be expected to work more than 20 hours per week for the additional funding. If a department plans to hire a student for 10 hours per week during Fall and Spring, the stipend funded through the GRA STEM & Industry opportunity would be adjusted down to \$10,000 to remain consistent with other funded students.

Q7. What other requirements does this funding have?

Students will be expected to complete a Summer 2026 internship and will receive an additional stipend upon successful completion of the internship. Students will also be required to be enrolled in INT 8010 (0 credit hours) while completing their summer internship, and the Graduate School will cover any fees associated with the course.

This initiative is made possible in partnership with the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors. If there are any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the STEM Programs Coordinator, Rieta Drinkwine (rdrinkw@clemson.edu).



STEM Industry Funding Request

The Graduate School anticipates receiving an additional allocation of funding for the 2025-26 academic year to support STEM-based research that engages industry. Faculty, who are affiliated with STEM degree programs and are currently conducting or plan to conduct research in collaboration with industry and/or other external non-academic organizations, may be eligible for funding to support project-related graduate student research assistants for the upcoming academic year through the Graduate School.

Please complete this form for any potential new student you would like to have funded through this opportunity, including incoming GEM associate fellows. Both domestic and international students will be considered, and forms can be completed retroactively for students that have already been admitted for Fall 2025. Priority funding areas include: collaborations with external organizations in South Carolina, first generation graduate students, students from rural communities in South Carolina, and projects that have not been previously funded through this opportunity.

For projects with existing external industry and/or non-academic collaborations, please include supporting documentation in the form of the relationship, such as a letter of support from the external organization. For projects that will be establishing new collaborations with a non-academic entity, documentation will be requested at the beginning of the Spring 2026 semester to ensure continued funding for graduate research assistants.

Graduate students will receive a stipend of \$20,000 total for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters, as well as institutional GAD. Departments are encouraged to supplement this funding to ensure students are funded at the standard departmental level. Students funded through this opportunity will be expected to complete a summer internship with one of the project's affiliated external organizations, and the internship will also be funded through the Graduate School.

This initiative is made possible in partnership with the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors.

Note: Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in the order they are received. Funding determinations will be made April prior to the funding deadline.

Submitted by

Your Name

Your Email Address

Student Info

First Name	
Last Name	
Email	
Slate ID	
Current Program	
Current Concentration	
Current Specialty Area	

Faculty Supervisor Information

Faculty Supervisor First Name	
Faculty Supervisor Last Name	
Faculty Supervisor Email Address	

Collaborator Information

Please select the option that best describes the relationship your program has with this industry collaborator.

- ☐ Existing
- ☐ New
- ☐ Current collaborator, new project
- ☐ Prior collaborator, new project

Current/Potential Industry Collaborator (Organization Name)

Location of Industry Collaborator (Primary location for collaboration)

For industry collaborators with multiple locations, please specify the location where research will primarily be conducted.

Country

City

State

Postal Code

Project Information

Brief Project Description (1-2 sentences)

If this is part of an existing collaboration, please provide documentation (informal documentation is acceptable, including email correspondence. Existing agreements may also be provided as documentation if readily available).

Choose File

 no file selected

If the project is receiving funds from other sources, please provide a brief overview.

Write N/A if the project is not receiving funding from any other sources.

Additional Comments

If you are requesting partial funding or funding for only one semester, please include that information here.