

W. M. Keck Foundation Bridge Funding Initiative

A new initiative to support the career trajectories of early- to mid-career faculty and their graduate students.

Funding: \$200,000 over 2 years per pair of faculty member (Keck Scholars) and graduate student (Keck Fellows)

UCR may nominate 4 faculty-student pairs

Timeline

Limited Submissions due: October 1st

Limited Decisions communicated: October 6th

Proposals due to Keck: October 29th

Purpose:

This one-time funding is designed to:

- Rapidly deploy bridge funds to assist researchers who may be especially vulnerable to sudden shifts in traditional funding mechanisms.
- Support retention of early- to mid-career principal investigators (Assistant or Associate Professors as of January 2026) and their PhD students.
- Fund projects aligned with the W. M. Keck Foundation's mission to advance high-impact basic science research that:
 - Focus on important and emerging areas of research
 - Have potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies
 - Are innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary
 - Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches or challenge the prevailing paradigm
 - Have potential for transformative impact such as the founding of a new field of research, enabling new observations, or altering perception of a previously intractable problem
 - Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
 - Demonstrate that W.M. Keck Foundation support is essential to the project's success

Limited Submission Instructions

Please submit a 1 page project summary with ½" margins in 11 point font with the following:

1) Project Title

2) Personnel summary

Keck Scholar (faculty member) - Full name, title, department; year of appointment, snapshot of current funding by agency, project title and direct costs, # of current PhD students, # of current postdocs. Brief bio with degrees, expertise.

Keck Fellow (graduate student) - Full name, program, year and candidacy status. Current and past funding of student. Brief bio with degrees, expertise, awards.

3) Project overview

Overarching goals and alignment with the Keck Foundation's mission

Brief approach with models/methods and expected results

4) Summary budget for \$200k over 2 years: personnel (\$75k/yr minimum for PhD student, including up to \$25k towards tuition, fees, and student travel), equipment, supplies and travel.

Questions may be directed to Kelly Kraus-Lee, Senior Director of Foundation Development at
kelly.krauslee@ucr.edu

Please do NOT contact the Keck Foundation directly.