**Announcement**

**Call For Proposals**

**NJIT Faculty Seed Grants (FSG): FY 2024-25**

(Collaborative FSG: $10,000 and Single PI FSG: $7,500)

and

**NJIT Collaborative Early Research Translation (CERT)**

**Seed Grants: FY 2024-2025**

($25,000 each)

[**Full Announcement Access**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17ZX90au7bN6jWepM509T-rcOe9V4jvM6/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106271384393410283667&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**Proposal Submission Deadline:**

FSG Proposals to Respective College/School Dean: April 3, 2024

CERT Seed Grant Proposals to Respective College/School Dean: April 3, 2024

Project Funding Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

1. **Purpose**

NJIT Strategic Plan targets substantial increase in academic research and external funding with faculty and student professional development. With recent trends in external research funding favoring large collaborative research and innovation partnerships, NJIT is strategically focusing on creating seed funding opportunities for faculty and students to promote collaborative research, innovation and technology entrepreneurship with a complete spectrum of basic, applied and translational research addressing high impact scientific and societal needs.

Faculty Seed Grants

The purpose of the NJIT Faculty Seed Grant (FSG) initiative is to promote academic research in core and interdisciplinary areas by providing seed funding to obtain preliminary results or establish hypotheses for developing future grant proposals for submission to external funding agencies. The FSG initiative specifically seeks seed funding proposals from faculty to launch new initiatives in core, collaborative and interdisciplinary emerging areas aligned with NJIT strategic tactics to develop critical research mass. It is expected that the FSG funds will be used to promote on-campus collaborative research with faculty and students.

NJIT full-time faculty with a specific research initiative to enhance critical mass in strategic and emerging areas may apply to FSG program for internal funding with a budget of $10,000 per collaborative project over the project funding period. **Multidisciplinary collaborative projects with 2 or more PIs are strongly encouraged.** However, a limited number of single PI based projects with a strategic justification on the development of a specific innovative research project for obtaining preliminary results targeting early-stage external research funding grants, such as NSF CAREER, Young Investigator and other faculty professional development awards, may be considered at the funding level of $7,500 per project that are strongly endorsed by the respective College/School dean.

It is expected that about 15-20 FSG awards will be made this year.  Funding is arranged through the Offices of Research and College/School Deans.

Recipients of FSG as lead faculty are not eligible to receive another FSG award as lead faculty within three years from the last FSG award. Projects funded by FSG are not eligible to receive another FSG as the intent of internal seed funding is to facilitate initial research towards obtaining external funds to pursue research.

Allowable Expenses include project supplies and small equipment, travel to conferences and/or funding agencies, travel expenses for funding agency staff to visit NJIT, student hourly wages. Faculty summer salary, AY release and any stipend are not permitted in the budget. FSG is not a travel grant to support travel for out-of-campus work during sabbatical or other leave.

Collaborative Early Research Translation (CERT) Seed Grants

Recent trends in federal and private funding have significantly shifted towards large collaborative research and innovation partnerships-based grants for establishing regional and national research resources, hubs, centers, and institutes in key areas of high technology and economic impact. To compete for these large-scale grants, NJIT needs to enhance its capacity and capabilities for collaborative research synergies, specifically through applied and translational research and innovation as well as technology development and transfer activities with an entrepreneurial commercialization ecosystem.

To accelerate NJIT’s trajectory towards increased collaborative research and innovation funding, a new strategic initiative to support Collaborative Early Research Translation (CERT) Seed Grants has been launched to invest in research clusters of high potential impact. These CERT seed grants will initiate early translation of research and innovation, working collaboratively with an external partner, towards developing proof-of-feasibility and potential intellectual property to build foundation to submit competitive proposals for external research translation acceleration funding opportunities, such as NSF ART (Accelerating Research Translation), NSF PFI (Partnerships for Innovation) and NIH Biomedical Research Partnerships, or internal NJIT TITA (Technology Innovation Translation Acceleration) seed grants for further advancement in translational research and market validation.

NJIT’s internal seed funding opportunities including FSG, CERT and TITA seed grants are critical components of the strategic Research, Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship (RITE) ecosystem as outlined in the 2025 and 2030 Strategic Plans. The strategic investment will enable NJIT to further develop its RITE ecosystem to become more competitive in securing large external grants leading to higher faculty and student success and institutional leadership, recognition, and ranking.

The CERT Seed Grants will be funded for $25,000 per project, if awarded. It is expected that about 5-8 CERT seed grant awards will be made this year.  Funding is arranged through the institutional and recently awarded NSF ART grant through the new NJIT Center for Translational Research.

The eligibility criterion for CERT seed grants requires **at least one external collaborator or partner** from academia, industry, healthcare or any relevant business or user community. Tenured, tenure-track or non-tenure track with full-time employment status may submit their proposals with external collaborator(s) describing early research translation to applications addressing an innovative solution to address a significant market need. **Applicants are not required to have an issued patent or filed provision/non-provisional patent application at the time of proposal submission. However, it is expected that applicants will submit invention disclosure(s) to NJIT to secure potential intellectual property for their innovation during the grant period if awarded.** The CERT seed grant recipients must agree to submit research proposal(s) to external collaborative translational research and/or internal TITA funding opportunities.

Allowable Expenses include project supplies and small equipment, travel to conferences and/or funding agencies, travel expenses for funding agency staff to visit NJIT, student hourly wages. Faculty summer salary, AY release and any stipend are not permitted in the budget.

1. **Proposal Submission Deadlines:**

CFP Announcement: February 6, 2024

FSG Proposal Submission Deadline to the Respective College/School Dean: April 3, 2024

CERT Seed Grant Proposal Submission Deadline to the Respective College/School Dean: April 3, 2024

College/School Dean Recommendations to Office of Research Due: April 15, 2024

Completion of Institutional Review and Announcement of Awards: April 25, 2024

Funding Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (no extension will be available)

1. **Review Process and Criterion:**

All Proposals will be reviewed within the College/School to which PI is affiliated. College/School Dean will make the recommendation of top ranked proposals based on the reviews from the College/School review committee which will be forwarded to the Office of Research for further review and discussion with Deans leading to the announcement of awards.

FSG Review Criterion

FSG review criterion primarily includes the scientific merit of the proposal, innovation and potential of external funding. Additional criteria may include significance of project goals, fit to the NJIT strategic research clusters, faculty expertise, potential collaboration, deliverables/outcomes, emerging trends towards developing critical mass in key areas, and justification of internal funding.

CERT Seed Grants Review Criterion

The selection criterion will include the following at the institutional review (deans can include additional criterion in their college-level review):

* Significance and Market Need
* Technology Innovation
* Competition and Competitive Advantage
* Translational Research Plan, Deliverables and Timeline
* Potential Impact
* Future Funding Potential

Additional criteria may include fit to the NJIT strategic research clusters, faculty expertise, potential collaboration, emerging trends towards developing critical mass in key areas, and justification of internal funding.

Other Requirements

Faculty receiving FSG or CERT Seed Grant awards must agree to submit a full proposal to external funding agencies within six months from the end date of the award. The CERT Seed Grant recipients may also submit proposals to internal TITA Seed Grant funding opportunities for further technology translation research and acceleration. They will also participate in the NJIT Faculty Research Showcase and Panel Discussion events in the Spring semester.

1. **Proposal Submission Formats and Guidelines**

[Required FSG Proposal Format](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1taBiNgqW0lh32Yb55c7V6txRGShphLGs/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106271384393410283667&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[Required CERT Seed Grant Proposal Format](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j4gBe5H-R7h9GeLRFV_1V-7rXkEBKtX0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106271384393410283667&rtpof=true&sd=true)