



Invitation to submit for a 2026 Wilson Grant of \$6,000 Cycle 2, Final Round

University of The Bahamas and the Wilson Family Foundation invite applications for a Wilson Grant (Cycle 2, Final Round) of \$6,000, offered in the Spring 2026 semester. Four (4) awards are available for this round, three (3) for scholarly work and one (1) for creative work. Should a creative work not meet the criteria specified below, the Foundation can award four (4) Grants for scholarly works that meet the criteria.

The Wilson Award supports researchers and creatives who defined a project that has yet to be completed. The grant shall serve to help defray such expenses as travel, student research assistance and course load reduction.

THE WILSON AWARDS CYCLE 2 THEME: “The Question of Development and Sustainability in the Bahamas: Past, Present and Future.”

PURPOSE

Underlying the selection of this theme is the recognition that the nature of development in The Bahamas has shaped who we are as a people. The Development Board Act of 1919 defined development as "the improvement of passenger service between the United States of America and the Colony, and ... increasing and adequately providing facilities for tourists and ... attracting them to the Colony." How has this concept of development served us? How have our expectations/definitions of development changed? What do we understand development to mean today? What do we want development to mean going forward? What is the nexus between development and sustainability?

Possible research areas include, but are not limited to:

- Culture
- Science
- History
- Civic Responsibility
- Economy (Blue/Green)
- Environment

It is expected that work on this theme will inform public consciousness, debate and policy and contribute to the ongoing task of building The Bahamas.

SCOPE AND FOCUS

Successful projects shall demonstrate a degree of historicity which considers the issues of nation formation and collective consciousness.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

It must state whether it is a new application i.e. have as its focus a new research subject, or is a renewal application, i.e. a renewal of a previous grant.

All applications for a 2026 Wilson Grant Cycle 2, Final Round must include:

1. The curriculum vitae and contact information of the applicant or applicants in those cases where the project is a joint submission of up to four principal researchers.
2. A detailed description of the project, not to exceed three (3) pages including any work already completed.
3. Evidence of approval from the University of The Bahamas Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent.
4. Applicants who are members of the University of The Bahamas community should have obtained approval from the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to their application for a Wilson Grant. Applicants who are not members of the University of The Bahamas community should demonstrate that their project meets ethical research standards.
5. The work plan and schedule for completion of the project.
6. A projection of related research expenses.
7. The names and specific contact information of two readers who, by virtue of their expertise can provide a scholarly critique of the work and work plan and are willing to do so. Applications must include a brief description of the readers' qualifications as evidence of their expertise.

Applications for a Wilson Grant 2026 (RENEWAL) must also include the Research Grant Final Report (see [link](#)) demonstrate proof of progress, as for example in:

1. A paper/article already published in a scholarly journal/book, OR
2. A draft of a paper of publishable quality, OR
3. Survey results and analysis of the same, OR
4. An increased number of interviews, with analyses of them and their significance, OR
5. For a creative work, detailed account/analysis of research foundational to the work.

Note:

1. Applicants in one cycle shall not be considered as reviewers for other submissions in the same cycle.
2. The Review Board reserves the right to ask applicants to supply additional names of suitable reviewers.
3. The Review Board reserves the right to select an external independent reviewer who shall be an individual with a stellar reputation for scholarship or achievements in the relevant discipline or respective field.

ELIGIBILITY

The awards are open to individuals engaged in research on or about The Bahamas and whose work is within the scope and focus described above.

Researchers may submit up to two (2) Wilson Grant applications per round provided one of the submissions is a joint submission with another applicant, and both submissions are on different research topics.

ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

Criteria used to review the proposals for the Wilson Grant include:

1. Significance of contribution to the applicant's academic discipline.
2. Significance of contribution to Bahamian research literature.
3. Significance of work to Bahamian national development.
4. Ability of work to inform a better appreciation of Bahamian identity.
5. Potential to drive innovation.

ADJUDICATION

The Review Board shall review the applications and, based on the criteria listed above, select those for which it shall request scholarly and/or expert reader feedback. Considering the criteria and the feedback from external readers, the Review Board shall offer a maximum of four awards, three of which shall be for academic work of publishable quality and one of which shall be for production of work in a medium other than print article or monograph.

Should the Board choose to offer an award for work for which there are between two (2) and four (4) principal researchers, the award shall be shared evenly among the researchers.

The Board reserves the right not to award all four of the Grants at its discretion.

The decision of the Review Board is final and without appeal.

RECOGNITION OF WILSON AWARD

Grant recipients shall acknowledge the support of the Wilson Foundation and give a presentation of their Work at the University of The Bahamas at a day and time to be approved by the University of The Bahamas.

COMPLETION

Should the Review Board determine that the completed work merits publication and/or distribution, it will recommend to the University of The Bahamas that it support publication and/or distribution of the work.

DEADLINES

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals and required documents no later than 30 May 2026 to wilsonawards@ub.edu.bs.

DECISIONS

Decisions will be communicated by 31 July 2026.