

THE WILSON AWARDS



Invitation to submit for a 2024 Wilson Grant of \$4,000 Cycle 2, Round 1

University of The Bahamas and the Wilson Family Foundation invite candidates to apply for a Wilson Grant (Cycle 2, Round 1) of \$4,000, offered in the spring 2024 semester. Three awards are available for scholarly work; one award is available for creative work.

The Wilson Award supports researchers and creatives who have 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, the following:

Culture
Science
History
Civic Responsibility
The Economy (Blue/Green)

It is expected that outstanding scholarly and academic work on this theme and exceptional creative work will inform public consciousness, public debate and policy, and contribute to the ongoing task of building The Bahamas. The cycle begins in the 2024 Spring semester and ends at the end of the 2028 Fall semester.

SCOPE AND FOCUS

Of the four available awards, three are reserved for written work, whether in the form of a monograph or publishable journal article. One is reserved for creative work which has a demonstrable research foundation yet is best expressed in a form other than printed text.

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

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Applications for a 2024 Wilson Grant Cycle 2, Round 1 must include:

1. The curriculum vitae and contact information of the candidate or candidates in those cases where the project is a joint submission of up to two principal investigators.
2. The detailed description of the project, to exceed no more than three (3) pages, including any work already completed.
3. Evidence of approval from the University of The Bahamas Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent.

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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 or submission for the Wilson Prize. Applicants who are not members of the University of The Bahamas community should demonstrate that their research meets ethical standards in research.

4. The work plan and schedule for completion of the project.
5. A projection of related research expenses.
6. 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.

Note: Individuals who are themselves applicants shall not be considered as reviewers for other submissions. The Review Board reserves the right to ask candidates to supply additional names of suitable reviewers. The Review Board also reserves the right to select an independent external reviewer who shall be an individual with a stellar reputation for scholarship in the relevant discipline or achievements in the respective field.

ELIGIBILITY

The awards are open to researchers in The Bahamas and elsewhere whose work is within the scope and focus described above.

ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

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

1. Significance of contribution to the candidate's or candidates' 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 two principal investigators, the award shall be shared evenly between the investigators.

Should the Board choose not to offer all four awards on the basis that there are too few applications that meet its standard, the sum not spent shall be kept in its segregated account, generating interest in the fund.

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 University of The Bahamas at a day and time to be approved by University of The Bahamas.

RENEWAL AND COMPLETION

Recipients of the 2024 Wilson Grant shall be eligible for a renewal and shall be advised of the date by which they will be required to submit applications for a renewal.

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Should the Review Board determine that the completed work merits publication and/or distribution, University of The Bahamas shall ensure publication and/or distribution of the work.

DEADLINES

Candidates are invited to submit their proposals and required documents no later than March 29, 2024 to grants@ub.edu.bs

DECISIONS

Decisions will be communicated to candidates by May 29, 2024.