

Student Engagement Mini Grants 2019-2020

The vision statement for JMU is “To be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world.”

President Alger has entrusted funds to the Faculty Senate to further the university vision. As part of this effort, the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association are partnering to offer the opportunity for students to apply for mini-grants (up to \$5,000) to fund engagement projects.

At JMU, engagement takes three forms:

1. **Engaged Learning**—Developing deep, purposeful and reflective learning, while uniting campus and community in the pursuit, creation, application and dissemination of knowledge.
2. **Civic Engagement**—Advancing the legacy of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, by preparing individuals to be active and responsible participants in a representative democracy dedicated to the common good.
3. **Community Engagement**—Fostering mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships, ranging from local to global, that connect learning to practice, address critical societal problems, and improve quality of life.

Mini-grant funds may be used to support an existing engagement project or for new engagement initiatives.

ELIGIBILITY

1. All JMU students are eligible to apply for a Student Mini-Grant. This includes full-time and part-time students, both graduate and undergraduate.
2. To be selected, applicants must remain in good academic standing. Students who maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 are considered to be in academic good standing.

FINANCIAL AID AND TAX IMPLICATIONS

Grants awarded will be paid to the student directly through Financial Aid and Scholarships (as a scholarship), which means that receiving these funds may have financial aid and/or tax implications. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to determine if receiving the Student Engagement Mini Grant will negatively impact their Financial Aid package.

REFUND PROCESSES THROUGH THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Grants are paid in one installment through University Business Office (UBO). The UBO will credit the full amount of the grant to the student’s account, then issue a refund after all other balances have been paid. The amount of the refund will depend on the amount of the student’s unpaid balance when the mini grant is credited to the student’s account. If there is no unpaid balance when the award is posted, then the mini grant will be refunded to the student in its entirety.

TIMELINE

- Applications open: **October 8th, 2019**
- Applications due: **October 20, 2019 by midnight**
- Awardees announced: **December 2019**
- Projects implemented: **Jan. 1, 2019–June 30, 2019**
- 250-word summary of project results due: **Within one month** of project implementation

APPLICATION PROCESS

The [form](#) asks for the following:

1. A 500-word description of your engagement initiative and explanation of how it embodies James Madison University's vision statement.
2. A brief project timeline.
3. A short budget breakdown.

The steering committee reserves the right to request more information during the decision process.

JUDGMENT CRITERIA

The Vision Mini-Grant Steering Committee hopes to fund initiatives of all three kinds (engaged learning, community engagement and civic engagement). Engagement initiatives that address multiple areas of engagement are encouraged.

Mini-grant applications will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Extent to which the proposed initiative will promote **high-quality engagement** within one or more of the three engagement types.
2. **Clarity and feasibility** of the project's budget and timeline.

Please contact Aaliyah McLean or Heidi Deger about any questions at sga@jmu.edu