

Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF)

[The Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund \(HEETF\)](#) of Virginia provides funding to institutions of higher learning including Virginia Commonwealth University to upgrade equipment needed for instruction and research. In anticipation of funding in 2025, SOM faculty members are encouraged to assess their equipment needs that can be funded through HEETF. HEETF funding is used for shared equipment that will transform the current state of research at VCU (see some examples of funded equipment below). In addition, priority is granted to requests that maximize the number of investigators who will benefit, that transcend department and school/college boundaries, and for which plans to maintain the equipment are in place. Depending on the availability of funds, equipment requests that are non-transformative in nature, but are needed to maintain or improve the current status of research at the SOM will also be considered for funding, but priority will be given to transformative high-end equipment. Funding can be requested for equipment used in both clinical and basic sciences research. There is also a separately administered education fund.

Guidelines for preparing HEETF proposals can be downloaded from the SOM research website (<https://medschool.vcu.edu/research/>)

Optional letters of intent are due on March 15, and the deadline for submission of full proposals is April 15, 2025.

Letters of intent are limited to one page and should include a rationale, a cost estimate, and a draft list of users.

Please submit your letter of intent online by using the following [link](https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=HKD9HY333CPT9XL):
<https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=HKD9HY333CPT9XL>

VCU's process to determine the allocation of HEETF funds is designed to direct resources to meet overarching institutional needs as articulated in the VCU Strategic Plan. A VCU committee evaluates requests for these funds, thereby assuring non-duplication of expenditures and careful planning for the maximum benefit to the University.

Each school or unit prioritizes the requests submitted to that unit prior to forwarding to VCU for final consideration. The School of Medicine has a committee to evaluate and prioritize HEETF funding requests by its faculty members. Faculty members are encouraged to start the process early and talk to other colleagues about the need for equipment that can be supported by HEETF funding.

Examples of equipment purchased by the SOM through HEETF funding. Update list

- Two-photon microscopy system (Femto3D Atlas)
- Tundra Cryo-electron microscope
- Binary Gradient HPLC Systems
- Leica DMI8 S Microscope with Infinity TIRF Module
- Mini spec LF90 Body Composition Analyzer

Proposal submission and additional information

Please contact Ruth McIntoshBrandt (ruth.mcintosh-brandt@vcuhealth.org) with questions about submission of full proposals and templates.

For additional information contact Dr. Michael Donnenberg, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Research Training (Michael.Donnenberg@vcueahlth.org) or Dr. Zakir Ullah, Director Scientific Review (Zakir.Ullah@vcuhealth.org)