

UW ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF) INFO SESSION







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Proposal Development Consultant

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16. August 2024

ROADMAP

-  RRF objectives and eligibility
-  Review process and review criteria
-  Preparing the proposal
-  Submitting the proposal
-  Decisions
-  Insider tips for a successful proposal

THE BASICS

Mission



› UW Research › Office of Research Central › Royalty Research Fund (RRF)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/>

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“...to **advance new directions in research**, particularly:



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and/or (2) in disciplines for which **external funding opportunities are minimal**



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and/or (2) in disciplines for which **external funding opportunities are minimal**

and/or (3) for in cases where funding may **increase applicants' competitiveness for subsequent funding**



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- Support **pedagogical innovations** with limited impact
 - Must advance knowledge, connect to body of literature

THE BASICS



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Scholar vs. Standard RRF

- **Standard:** Up to 2 months summer salary total
- **Scholar:** One quarter teaching release

THE BASICS



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 - Eligible faculty funded in the proposal **MUST BE PI/co-PI**

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- **Past recipients** eligible 2 years after formal termination of previous award and receipt of final report

THE BASICS

Home › UW Research › Office of Research Central › Royalty Research Fund (RRF) › For Applicants ›

Eligibility & Guidelines

Eligibility & Guidelines

- [Who is Eligible to Apply?](#)
- [Who is Not Eligible to Apply?](#)
- [Other Guidelines](#)



Who is Eligible to Apply?

Role	Can be PI or Co-PI	Can receive salary support
Professorial Faculty Full-Time	Yes	Yes, if PI or Co-PI
Professional Staff Full-Time With PI Status	Yes	Yes

- Applicants must hold an eligible rank that is active in Workday at the time of submission.
- Proposals from senior faculty are funded only when they a) support a genuinely new direction in the applicant's research and/or career development, b) provide a unique opportunity (competing for subsequent one-time or infrequently-offered funding, undertaking research that is inherently time-sensitive/time-limited), or c) originate in a discipline for which external funding opportunities are minimal.

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-for-applicants/eligibility-and-guidelines/>

THE BASICS

Deadlines

- Solicited twice a year
- Due by 5pm on:
 - The last Monday in September (**Monday, Sept 30, 2024**)
 - The first Monday in March (**Monday, March 3, 2025**)
- Awards announced by June/January

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The RRF Office strongly advises submitting 3-4 days in advance of deadline (by Sept 25th)

***Pls must submit to UWT Office of Research
by Wed, Sept 18th (12p)***

THE BASICS

Proposal components

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-for-applicants/instructions-for-preparing-an-rrf-proposal/#research>

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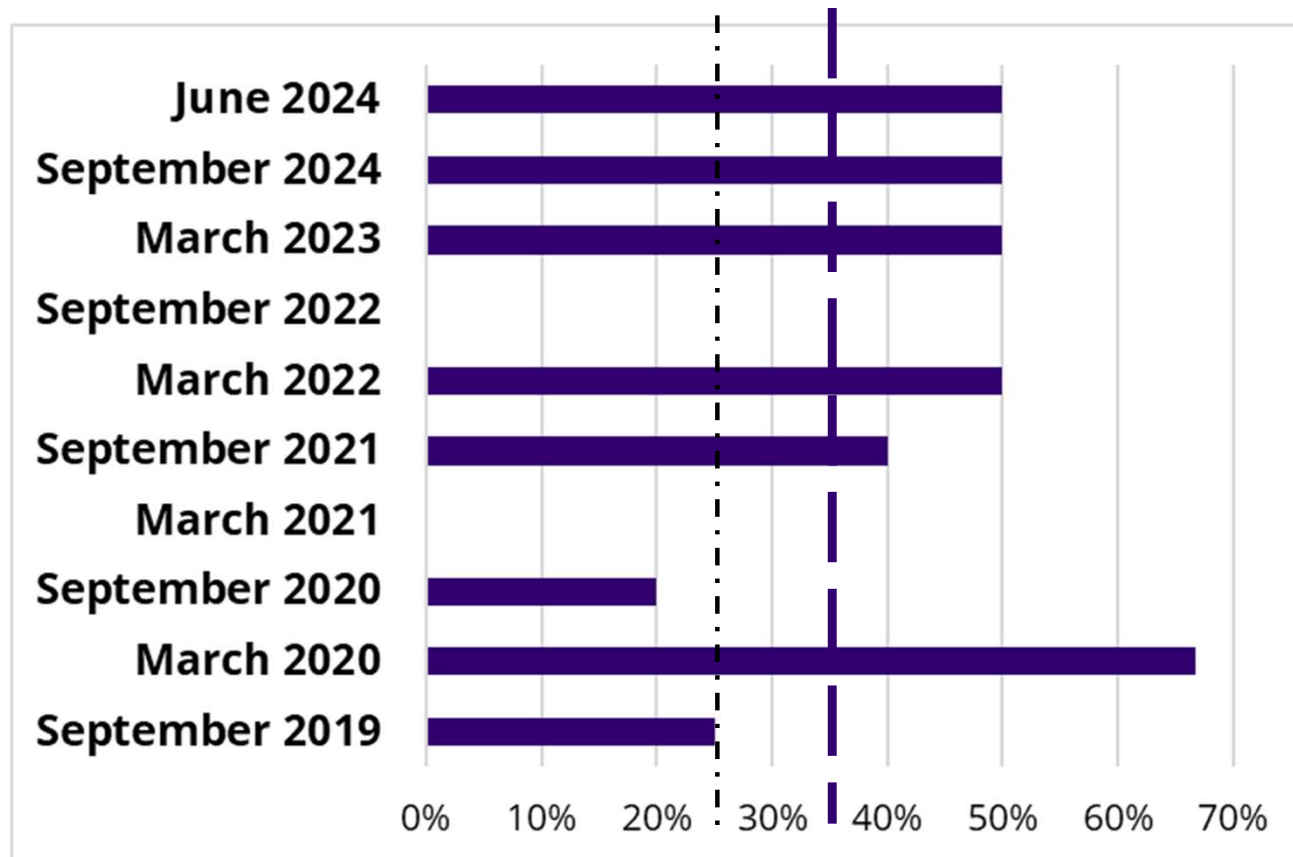
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Broad Funding Patterns

- Average tri-campus award rate = **25%** [range = 23-28%]
- Tacoma average (last 10 rounds): **35%**



REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1: Proposal assigned to one of 4 review committees

**Physical
Sciences &
Engineering**

**Basic
Biological &
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**Arts &
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**Social &
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RRF Program Committee Chair

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REVIEW PROCESS

Each staffed with 6-16 UW faculty from relevant disciplines (*as of June 2024*):

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Chemical Engineering
Civil & Environmental Engineering

Engineering & Technology*

Electrical & Computer Engineering
Environmental & Forest Sciences
Physical Sciences**
Physics
Statistics

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Allergy & Infectious Disease
Biochemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Emergency Medicine
Gerontology
Global Health
Immunology
Medicinal Chemistry
Metabolism, Endocrinology & Nutrition
Oral Health Sciences
Pharmacology & Pharmacy
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Speech & Hearing

Arts & Humanities

Art, Art History & Design
Asian Languages and Literature
Dance
Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures
Music
Slavic Languages & Literature

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Child, Family & Population Health Nursing
Economics
Geography
International Studies
Psychology
Special Education
Sociology & Statistics

*UW Tacoma Member

**UW Bothell Member

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 2: Committee identifies one member as “**lead reviewer**” for each proposal

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- Assigned based on self-selection, expertise/discipline
- Conflicts of interest avoided
- **Important figure** – can champion, mediate outlier reviewers
- Likely to come from different field, lens – **plan accordingly**

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Committee Members

[Home](#) › [UW Research](#) › [Office of Research Central](#) › [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#) ›

[Current Committee Members](#)


Current Committee Members

Active Members for Autumn 2024

Arts and Humanities

- Karen Cheng
Art, Art History, and Design
- Aria Fani
Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
- Louisa M. Iarocci
Architecture / Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
- Rachael Lincoln
Dance / Art, Art History, and Design
- Heidi Pauwels
Asian Languages and Literature
- Sasha Senderovich
Slavic Languages and Literatures / International Studies
- Carrie Shaw
Music

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Royalty Research Fund (RRF) 

Current Committee Members

FOR APPLICANTS

- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Eligibility & Guidelines](#)
- [SAGE for RRF Applications](#)

FOR AWARDEES

- [List of Awardees](#)
- [Post-Award Instructions](#)
- [Scholar Budget Instructions](#)

PEER-REVIEW COMMITTEES

- [Current Committee Members](#)
- [Committee Pages \(*restricted\)](#)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/rrf-committee-members/>

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 3: Lead committee member/reviewer **recruits (2)**
additional UW reviewers

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- Reviewers remain anonymous (PI does not)

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Step 4: Proposals **ranked quantitatively** by average score

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Step 6: Committee **selects proposals and allocates awards**

REVIEW CRITERIA

Primary Criteria

- Scored on (3) criteria – scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)
 - #1: Research performance **competence**
 - #2: **Intrinsic merit** of the research
 - #3: Potential for **broader impacts**

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- Budget not considered as part of the review

REVIEW CRITERIA

#1: **Research performance competence**

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- **Capability** of investigator(s)
- **Technical soundness** of the approach
- Adequacy of institutional **resources** available

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- Potential for substantial **impact on progress** in that field
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a **goal that is extrinsic or in addition to** that of the field
 - e.g. supporting new technology or solutions to societal problems, enhance teaching

REVIEW CRITERIA

#3: Potential for broader Impacts

- Increasing **diversity and inclusion** in the field
 - Supporting and mentoring BIPOC students, post-docs, and/or early career colleagues
 - Conducting research that benefits underrepresented or underserved communities

REVIEW CRITERIA



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 - b) "...provide a **unique opportunity** (e.g. competing for subsequent one-time or infrequently-offered funding, undertaking research that is inherently time-sensitive)
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Availability/timeliness for obtaining future funding

Potential to improve the quality, distribution, or effectiveness of **UW's research and education activities**

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PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

Description of proposed research (6 pages)

A. Introduction and Rationale

B. Broader Impacts



C. Objectives

D. Procedure

E. Time Schedule

F. Need for RRF Support

Section headings MUST appear exactly as above, in order;

Do not include any other heading

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL



Conceptualizing your project

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- Scope: **1-year**

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 - ...but clearly **connected to long-term research** agenda
- Focused on **increasing competitiveness** for future funding
 - ...and/or **your development** as a scholar

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

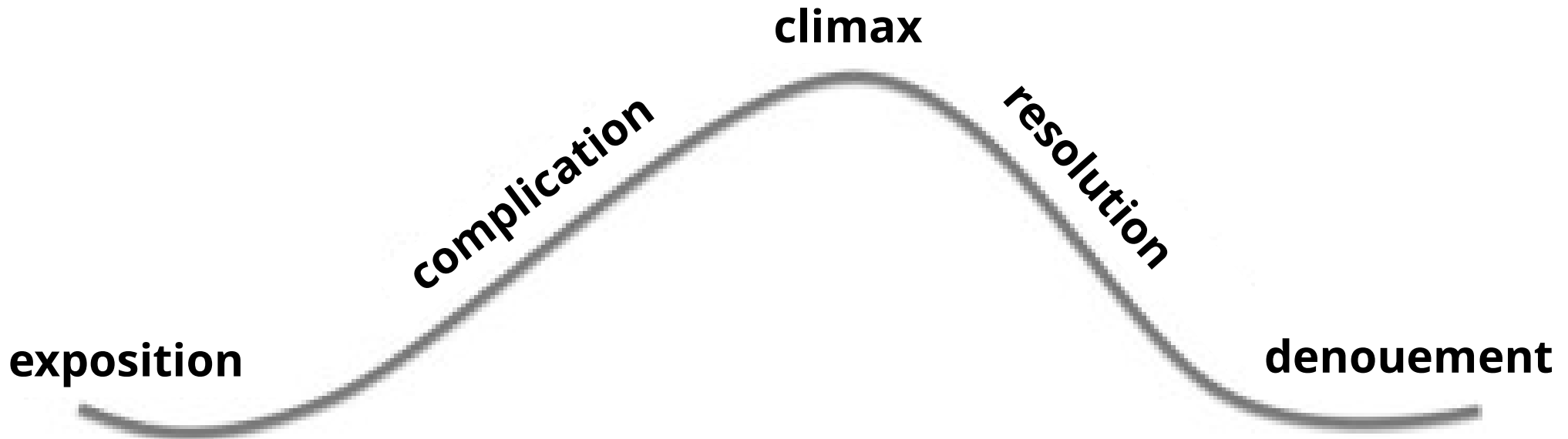
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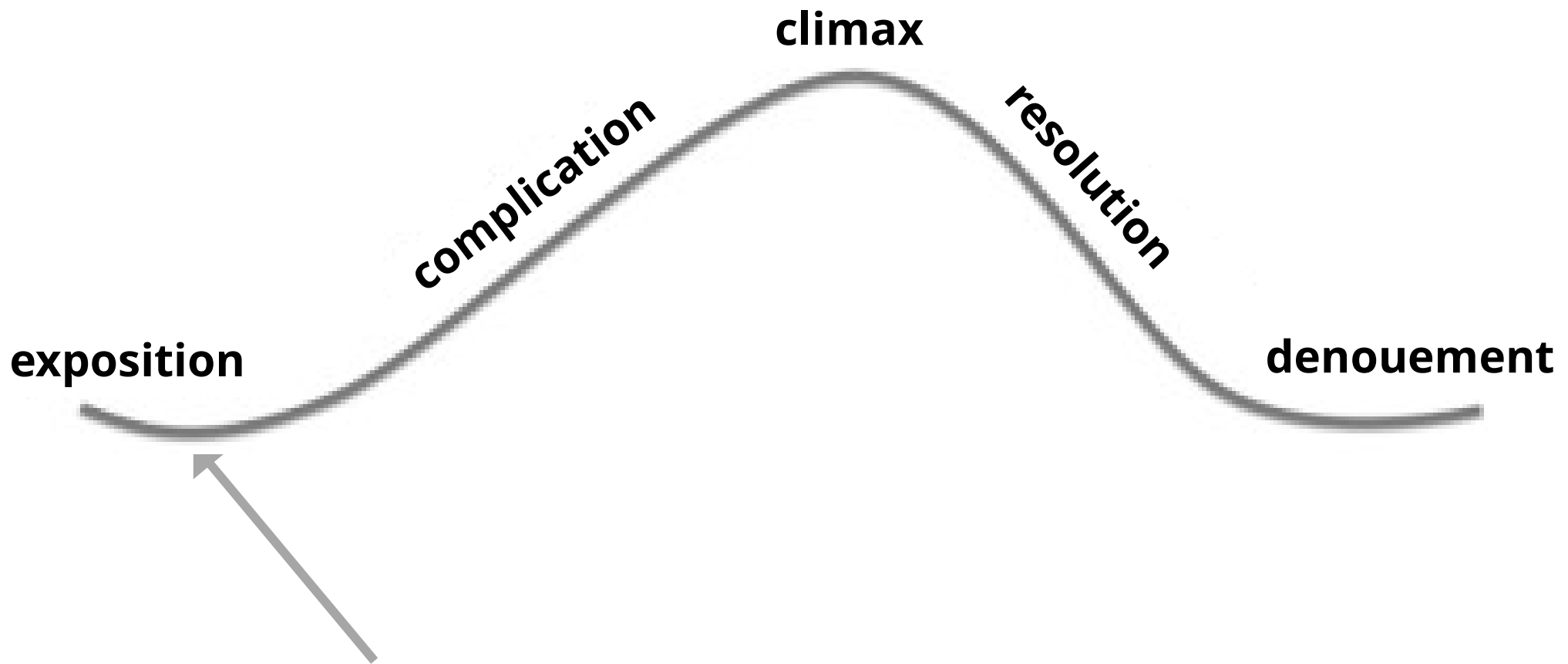
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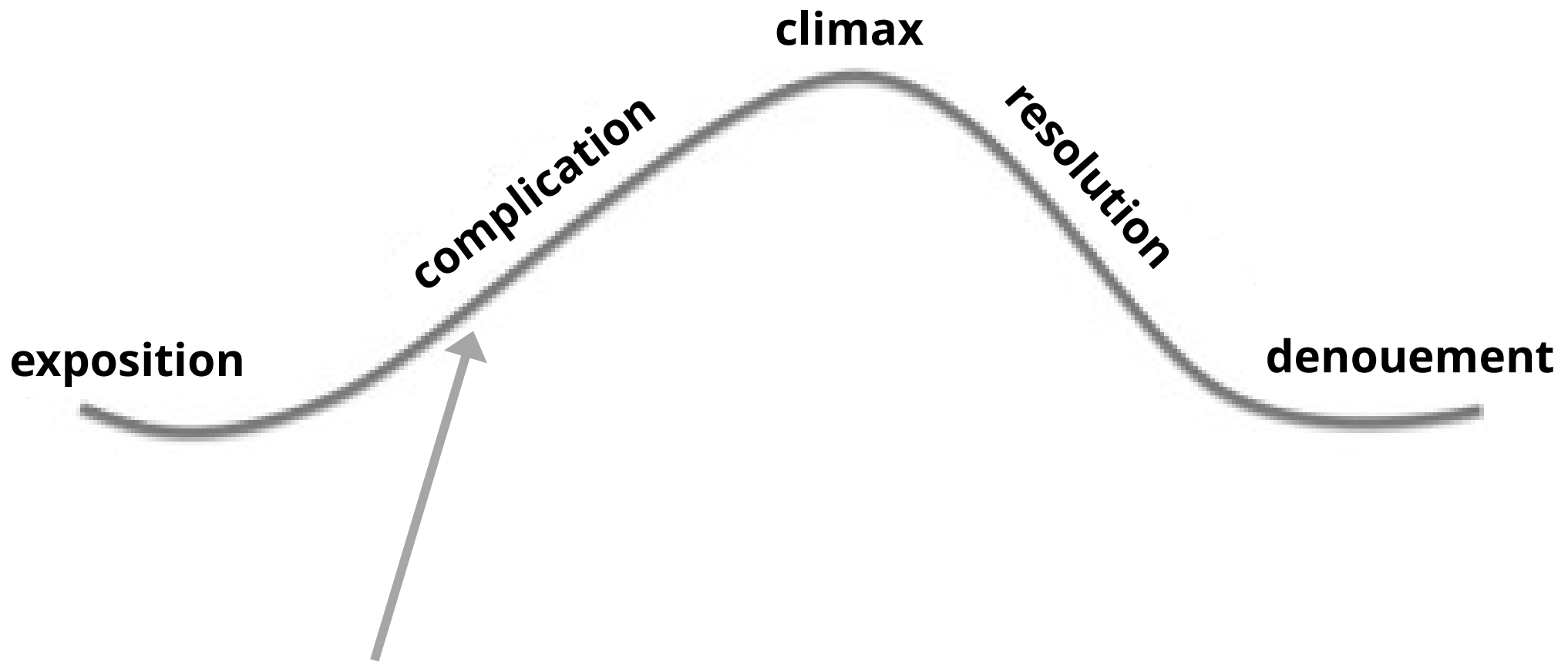
Think of the proposal's narrative arc...





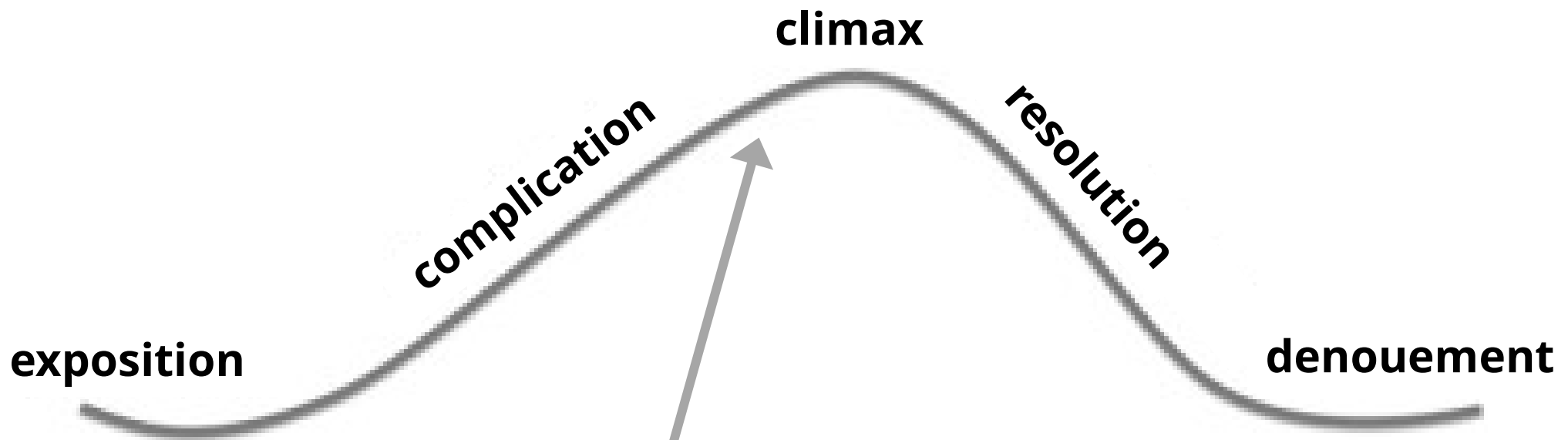
A. Introduction/Rationale:

- Describe the **fundamental “problem”**
- Theoretical **background/justification**
- **Significance** & Potential **impact**



A. Introduction/Rationale:

- *Critical literature review*
- *Preliminary work, if any, including publications*
- *Identify a critical gap in knowledge / practice*

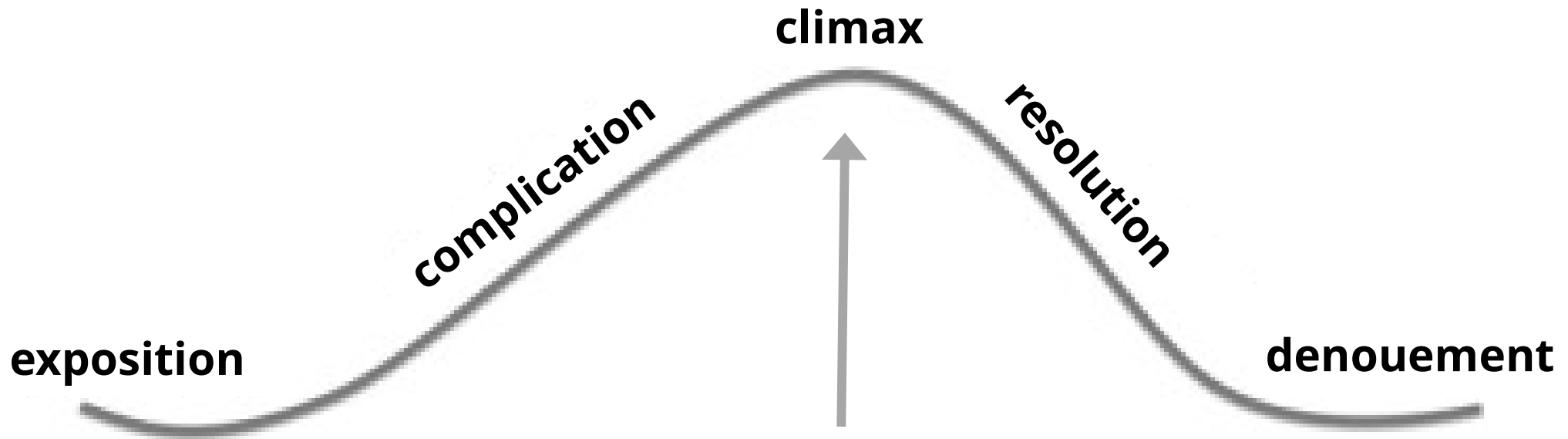


B. Broader Impacts



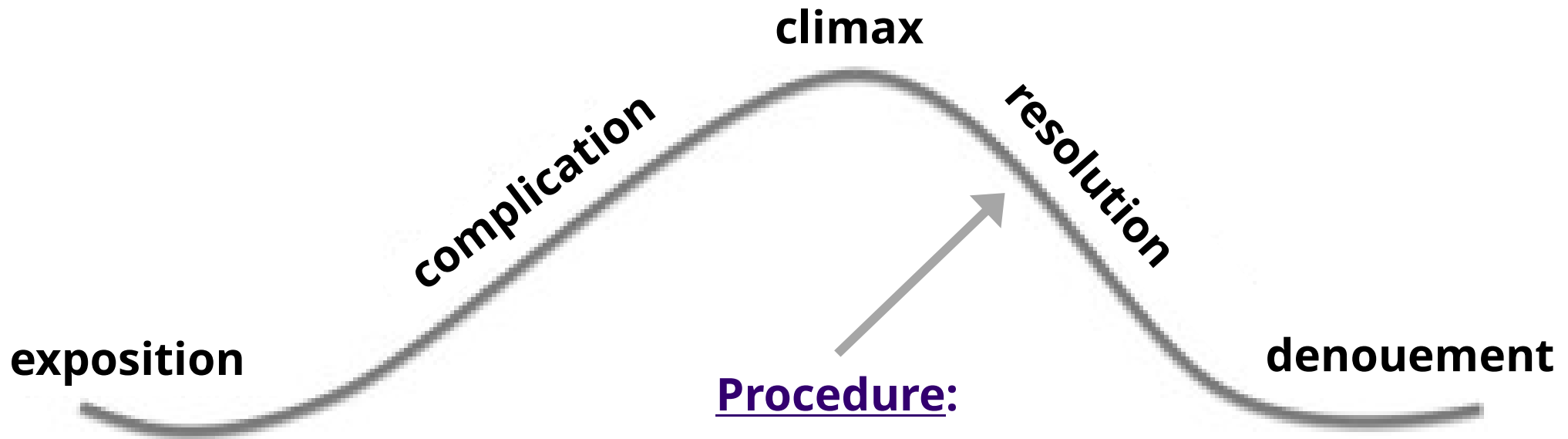
How with the project **achieve broader impacts** such as:

- Activities aimed at **increasing diversity and inclusion** in the field
- **Supporting and/or mentoring BIPOC members of UW community**
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- Benefitting **underrepresented and/or underserved communities**

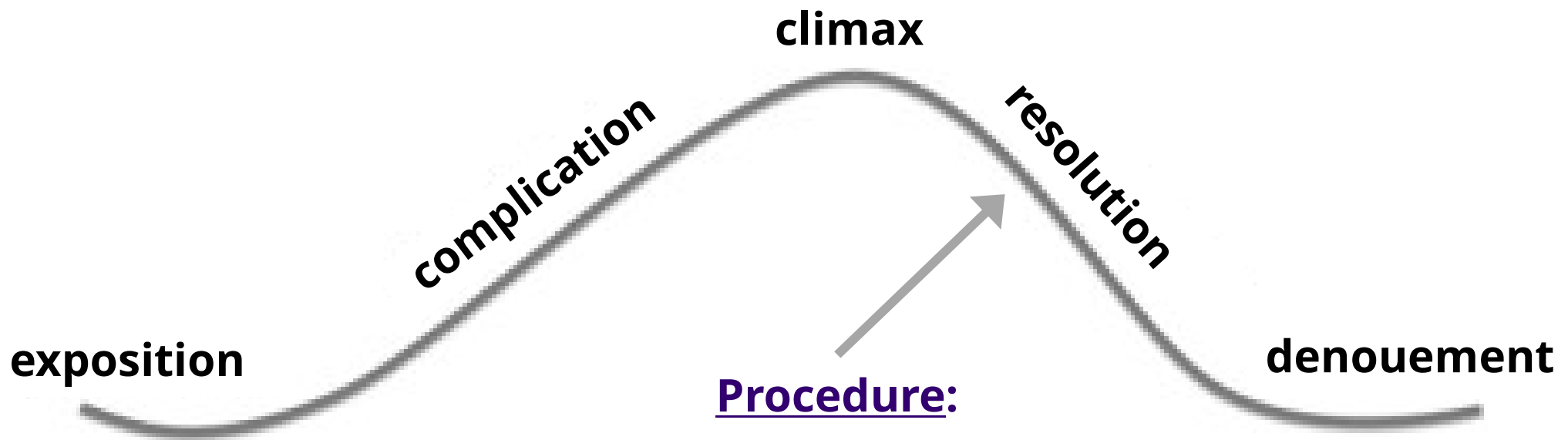


Objectives:

- How do you **propose to address** The Critical Gap and achieve Broader Impacts?
- What **objectives** will the project accomplish towards that end?
- Specific, measurable **aims**



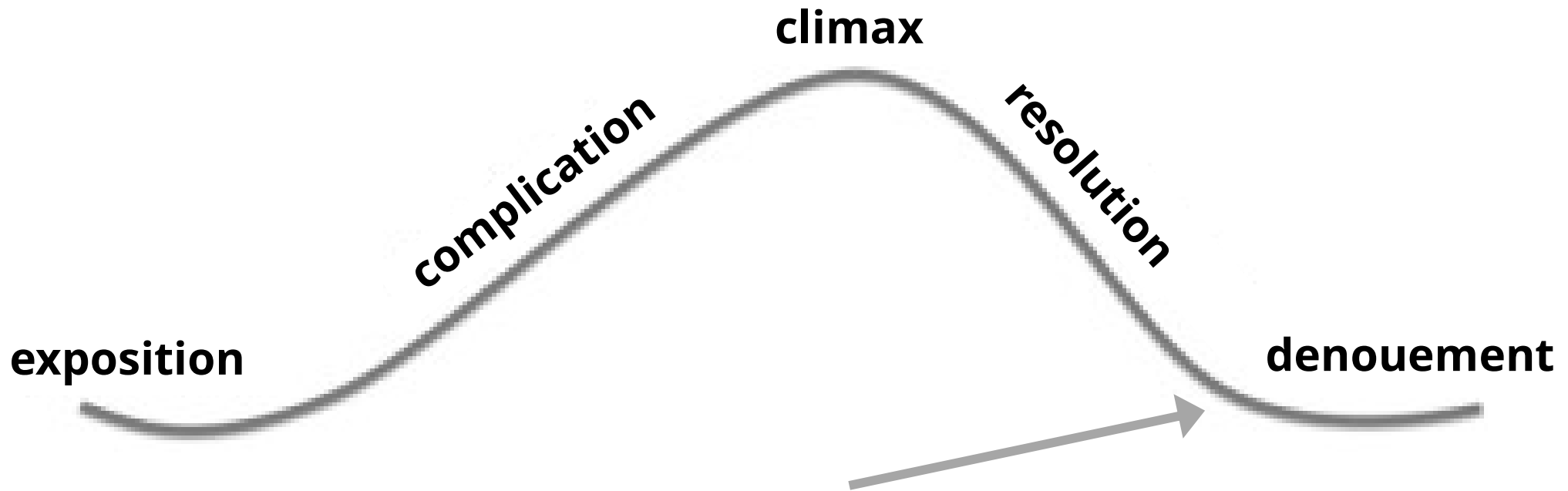
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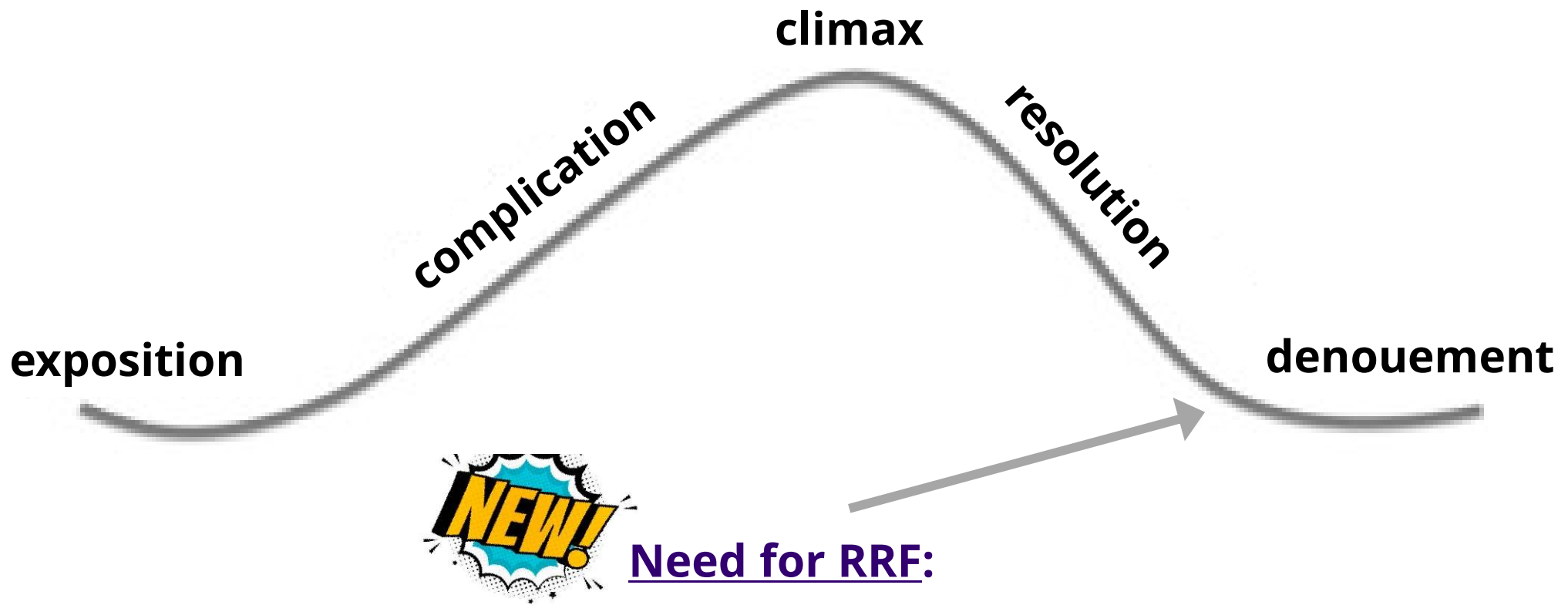
Time Schedule:

- How will proposed work be **completed within 1-year**?
- Consider including a table outlining key milestones



Need for RRF:

- How will the award **advance your overall research agenda** and career trajectory?
- How will award **increase competitiveness** for subsequent funding?
- Briefly: **Anticipated contribution** to the field and practice/society
- Document **teaching load** (if requesting release, i.e. submitting as “RRF Scholar”)



Need for RRF:

If senior faculty – Describe **in detail** how the project meets at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Supports a genuinely **new direction** in your research and/or career
- b) Constitutes a **unique, time-sensitive opportunity**, e.g. generating preliminary findings for infrequently-offered external funding, time-critical/time-limited work
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- Can help to keep in mind a **theoretical lead reviewer**
 - Past committee members listed on RRF website

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 - Include enough technical detail to satisfy their expectations
- Busy academics just like you – **make it easy for them!**
 - Be explicit and clear – connect the dots for them
- Can help to keep in mind a **theoretical lead reviewer**
 - Past committee members listed on RRF website
- Request awarded proposals to **understand “sweet spot”**

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Awardees

[Home](#) > [UW Research](#) > [Office of Research Central](#) > [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#) > [For Awardees](#) >

List of Awardees

List of Awardees

Download a spreadsheet of [RRF Awards 2014 to the present](#).

June 2024 Awardees

- Ahmed, Sama (Psychology)
A200984
Uncovering rules for robustness in biological neural networks
\$40,000
- Akapame, Rejoice (Bothell - Engineering and Mathematics)
A201376
Revitalizing STEM Student Engagement with the Quantitative Skills Center Post-Pandemic
\$39,852
- Al-Saleh, Danya (International Studies)
A201290
Petro-education: Fossil Fuels and Building a Knowledge Economy between Qatar and Texas
\$39,998
- Aziz, M (American Ethnic Studies)
A200628
Built with Fists: Black Martial Artistry during Black Power and the Cold War
\$40,000

For Awardees



List of Awardees

FOR APPLICANTS

- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Eligibility & Guidelines](#)
- [SAGE for RRF Applications](#)

FOR AWARDEES

- [List of Awardees](#)
- [Post-Award Instructions](#)
- [Scholar Budget Instructions](#)

PEER-REVIEW COMMITTEES

- [Current Committee Members](#)
- [Committee Pages \(*restricted\)](#)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf>

BUDGET

Budget

- Up to **\$40,000**
- Budget reductions sometimes occur
 - **Request only what you *really* need**

BUDGET

Allowable budget categories

- **Faculty salary**
 - 2 months summer (“standard”) or release costs for 1 quarter (“scholar”)
 - Summer salary and teaching release rare – justify, identify priority
 - Faculty salary may only be requested for PI/co-PI(s)

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 - Technicians/Professional Staff: 2 months (if co-PI), by justification if not PI
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- **Travel (non-conference), supplies/materials, equipment**

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- **Travel (non-conference), supplies/materials, equipment**
- **Student aid/tuition, if applicable**
- **NO indirect costs**

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

UWT Office of Research Timeline & Process

Key Deadlines

- By **Fri, Sept 6th** – PIs inform UWT Office of Research (UWTOR) of their intent to apply by completing the [Proposal Support Request Form](#)
- By **Wed, Sept 18th (12p)** – PIs provide all final proposal elements to UWTOR
- Between **Thurs, Sept 26th – Mon, Sept 30th** – PIs must be available to make any required changes to the proposal

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Review & Submission Process

- UWTOR will finalize the eGC1 and budget and route to UWT approvers by Fri, Sept 20th (5pm)
- eGC1 will reach the UW OSP and RRF Office for their review and feedback by Wed, Sept 25th (5pm)
- The RRF Office will provide feedback thereafter; Any necessary revisions must be completed by the Mon, Sept 30th (5pm) RRF deadline

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Process

- 1) **eGC1** created in SAGE [*Systems to Administer Grants Electronically*]

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

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 - Plan time for approvals!
 - Discuss teaching release with Dean/Director **well in advance**

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*The RRF Office strongly advises submitting 3-4 days in advance of deadline (by Sept 25th) – **PIs are required to submit to UWTOR by Wed, Sept 18th (12p)***

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate "Research Area" in SAGE

SAGE

[Back to My eGC1s](#) > [A132867](#) > [Details](#)

A132867

Details

PI, Personnel, & Organizations

Contacts & Assign Access

Abstract & RFA/RFP

Activity Locations

Budget & Fiscal Compliance

Cost Sharing

Compliance Questions

Compliance Explanations

Application Summary

Attached Documents

Certify & Route

Save & Close this eGC1

Check for Errors

Additional Information for RRF Application ?

Research Area

- Choose One
- Choose One
- Arts or Humanities
- Social or Behavioral Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Engineering
- Basic Biological or Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Biomedical Science

Application for RRF Scholar?
(one quarter teaching release)

Continue

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Continu

of Research (E.)

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- Choose One
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Arts & Humanities

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Be strategic! Use past committee member list as guide

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Suggested Reviewer Memo

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

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- Identify **2 to 4 UW faculty** (any campus) who can provide a “thorough and objective review”
 - Cannot have written or taught with in past 5 years
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 - Can be from your own department(s) as long as above two criteria met
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- Consider carefully: **At least 1 (maybe 2) will likely review**
 - Particularly important if working in a ‘niche’ field

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- Recommend **UWT faculty** and those who understand our context
- Consider carefully: **At least 1 (maybe 2) will likely review**
 - Particularly important if working in a ‘niche’ field
- Also identify UW **faculty who should not review** the proposal due to a conflict of interest (e.g. supervisors, previous collaborators)

DECISIONS

Decision letter

- Roughly equal chance of getting funded across committees

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- Scores not released, but decisions letters offer clue:
 - “...competitive...”
 - In top 25-30% of unfunded proposals
 - “...would probably require significant revisions”
 - Not in top 25-30%
- Regardless, **resubmit!**
 - 60% of successful UWT proposals were resubmissions

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

- 1) How is **what you are proposing different than what you have done before?**
 - Clearly distinguish between *past* and *proposed* activities
 - How will proposed work **build on previous work**
 - **What outcome will RRF be able to point to** as a result of the funding?

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- 2) Be **realistic about your scope** with **well-thought out plan of action**
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 - Demonstrating that you can do that you have thought through details signals to reviewers that you are able to execute

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- 3) Be explicit about **how you will achieve your objectives**
 - RRF does not fund things that say "trust me"
 - Don't be in the "great idea, no idea of how they will do them" group

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

5) Write (*not adapt*) **for RRF**, show **how RRF will launch** (*not maintain*)

INSIDER TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

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 - Committee members get to know proposal and may advocate for it
 - And even if reviewers not the same, institutional memory persists

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 - And even if reviewers not the same, institutional memory persists
- 9) Select reviewers strategically!**
 - Can be difficult to recruit – Make your reviewer’s job as easy as possible
 - Recruit a **likely champion**, not a detractor

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

- When possible, specific detail about **future funding / products**
 - Not just “I will apply for NSF funding”... or “I will write a book proposal”
 - ...but a specific program (“NSF Geography”), and timeline (“in Nov 2024”), ‘...book proposal to specific publisher, by specific date

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 - How administrative/teaching loads have impacted research (as applicable)
 - Good place to emphasize commitment to undergraduate research and/or community-engaged scholarship (as applicable)

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 - How administrative/teaching loads have impacted research (as applicable)
 - Good place to emphasize commitment to undergraduate research and/or community-engaged scholarship (as applicable)
- Explicit about how the project fits within **long-term research agenda**
 - The RRF is investing in YOU, and your long-term contributions to the UW’s intellectual capital

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Community-engaged/"applied" work –

Particularly important to:

- **Clearly detail procedures and operationalization** so that nothing about plan appears "fuzzy"
- Emphasize **theoretical contributions** beyond particular site(s)
- Describe how partnerships will set you up for **future work/funding**

(MORE) TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Framing UW Tacoma context:

- Remind reviewers/committee (likely in “Need for RRF”) of:

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Framing UW Tacoma context:

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 - Diverse student population
- Check for current: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/home/about-university-washington-tacoma>
- *Over 50% of undergrads First to College of First to Degree*
 - *Over 60% of undergrads are students of color*
 - *16% military-affiliated students*
 - *Anchor for South Sound rural communities*

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- Emphasize undergraduate involvement (if applicable)
 - ...but realize that RRF is not intended as undergrad support grant
 - Focus remains on the researcher and their long-term trajectory

WORKING WITH US

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- **UWTOR supports by:**
 - Preparing the **eGC1**
 - **Budget** development support
 - **Coordinating routing, submission, and responding to feedback** from UW RRF Office
 - **Proposal development** and **editing**

Thank you! Questions?

Kara Luckey, PhD, Proposal Development Consultant
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cgreen@uw.edu

Karen Urlie, UW Tacoma Office of Research
kurlie@uw.edu