

Center for Craft

Windgate-Lamar Fellowship Award

2027

WEBSITE: <https://www.centerforcraft.org/grants-and-fellowships/windgate-fellowship>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

RISD Internal Preliminary Application Deadline:
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 12:00 PM NOON ET

RISD Application opens: September

RISD Nominees are notified: By early November

Windgate-Lamar National Application Deadline (Nominees only):
Friday, January 31, 2027, at 11:59 PM ET

Awards are announced: April

Grant to take place: May to the following April (the project is to be completed in 12 months)

Please make careful note of the deadline date, time, and time zone. In order to be fair to all RISD applicants who submitted on time, we do not accept incomplete or late applications. It is important to not submit applications at the last minute. If you submit early and reach out to us because you have a technical issue, uploaded the wrong document, realized you made a mistake, or get stuck in any way, we can likely help you. We want you to successfully submit! It is good practice to submit 2-3 days before an application deadline. Be sure to not only start the application before the deadline but complete it. If you do not hit the submit button before the deadline time, your application will not go through and will not be accepted.

DESCRIPTION

The Windgate-Lamar Fellowship, established by the Center for Craft, is an award that encourages and advances serious, innovative artists in the United States who demonstrate exemplary skill in craft. The Fellowship provides \$15,000 to graduating undergraduate students to support their personal and artistic growth in a crucial phase of their early career. Artists who receive this award have used the funds to establish a studio, engage in further learning opportunities, and travel to locations significant to their research. This prestigious award is one of the largest awards offered nationally to art students.

The Fellowship Goals are:

- Opportunities - To provide visibility and networking opportunities for emerging makers
- Support - To financially support the careers of emerging makers
- Recognition - To recognize and affirm emerging talent

Each year, the Center for Craft invites colleges and universities across the United States to participate in the program. RISD is one of the institutions invited to nominate two graduating seniors/5th year students to compete in the national award competition. Ten students will be selected by a Windgate-Lamar panel representing curators, artists, and faculty to receive a \$15,000 award. Seventy percent of the grant will be awarded

upon execution of the grant agreement and receipt of the Fellow's W9. The final thirty percent of the grant will be awarded upon receipt of the Fellow's final report, including a two-page summary of how the grant funds were spent, projects pursued, and ten high-resolution images of work created or projects pursued during the Fellowship.

To view the work of previous Windgate-Lamar Fellows visit:

<https://www.centerforcraft.org/grants-and-fellowships/windgate-fellowship#recent-fellows>

As per the Center for Craft, this Fellowship is considered income by the IRS and is reported for the year(s) in which you receive funding.

ELIGIBILITY

As per the Center for Craft Wingate-Lamar Fellowship Guidelines:

- Applicants must be an enrolled undergraduate senior or 5th year student Fall 2026 to apply for nomination.
- Applicants must be graduating between December 2026 and August 2027.
- Applicants must be in good academic and community standing.
- Applicants must work in a craft medium. Areas of study may include: ceramics, sculpture, wood, furniture, fiber, textiles, glass, printmaking, metal, jewelry, mixed media, or other.
- Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen OR in the process of applying for U.S. Citizenship, as per Windgate-Lamar guidelines.
- Applicants must be able to receive taxable income for the duration of the grant and report this grant as income, as per Windgate-Lamar guidelines.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

RISD Notice of Nondiscrimination: RISD does not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of actual, perceived, or association with people with protected characteristics. For more information regarding RISD's Nondiscrimination Policy, including RISD's full Notice of Nondiscrimination, visit: <https://students.risd.edu/living-risd/equity-compliance/policies-procedures>

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applicant's work is clearly informed by craft processes, materials, traditions, and/or sensibilities.
- Applicant's work demonstrates a balance of content and design, as well as a mastery of materials.
- Applicant demonstrates innovation, curiosity, commitment to growth, and show evidence of how their work will stimulate creative thinking and/or dialogue among other artists.
- Applicant's proposed budget and timeline are realistic; feasibility is extremely important.

APPLICATION PROCESS & COMPONENTS

Please keep in mind that this is a competitive grant. All components of the application are considered in selecting recipients.

- We recommend that applicants reach out to their department head to let them know they are applying and ask for guidance from a faculty member on fine-tuning their application for the RISD internal deadline.

- Please consider that if you are one of the two nominees, you will have the opportunity to revise your narrative and change your images. This internal RISD application is important for RISD jurors to determine potential for nomination by the Center for Craft's deadline for institutions, which is late October/early November.
- Students must fill out and submit the RISD Preliminary Application online by the internal deadline. The link to the online application can be found at <https://careercenter.risd.edu/risd-managed-grants#windgate>. The application components are:
 - APPLICANT PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION
 - RESPONSES to the following in 1 PDF. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows:
 - ESSAY 1) Provide an artist statement that includes how your work is informed by craft processes, materials, traditions, and/or sensibilities. TIP: Consider including who or what has inspired you. (1,500 characters with spaces max)
 - ESSAY 2) How do you plan to use the \$15,000 Windgate-Lamar Fellowship Award to advance your practice and artistic development? (1,500 characters with spaces max) TIP: This Fellowship is to support artists as professionals launching their career. The time after graduation is a unique time and this award is to help artists make the most of it. Consider the ideal situation to further your work after graduation: Would travel push your boundaries? What necessary equipment won't you have access to after graduation? What information or skills would you like to acquire? This is not intended to support MFA or MA programs or projects during an MFA/MA program.
 - ESSAY 3) What impact do you think the Windgate-Lamar Fellowship award will have on your future? What are your career goals and how will this award help you achieve them? (1,500 characters with spaces max)
 - LIST) Please list up to three communities with whom you most frequently work or which you plan to engage through your funded project. You might consider age, skill, materials, identity, sexuality, geographic area, or other characteristics that the people you work with have in common. (800 characters with spaces max)
 - BUDGET) Provide a budget that fully outlines the expenses associated with the Windgate-Lamar Fellowship, accounting for the full amount of \$15,000. Consider travel, lodging, residency registration, course/workshop fees, materials, studio equipment, and/or studio rent. Create a clear budget in a table format with columns for "Item" and "Amount." List no more than 25 items. And, do the math – include totals. (1 page max)
 - TIMELINE) Provide a general timeline for the 12 months of the grant. Create a clear timeline in a table format with columns for "Month" and "Activity/Action." (1 page max)
 - RESUME. Include most recent employment, community involvement, volunteer service, exhibitions, awards, achievements, and other accomplishments.

- Unofficial TRANSCRIPT. This can only be accessed on a computer; not through the mobile or iPad app.
 - 1) Go to Workday, then Menu, then Academics.
 - 2) Under Academic Records, select Generate Unofficial Transcript.
 - 3) File outputs as a PDF. Save this PDF.
 - 4) Review the transcript. Your submitted transcript should include the courses you are registered for in the Fall 2026 semester.
 - 5) Check the size of this document. The transcript file you receive is often quite large. You will likely need to compress this file considering your application cannot exceed 25MB in uploads.
 - 6) Upload this PDF into your application.
- NUMBERED IMAGE LIST. Each image should include a description: title, materials, dimensions, and year PLUS how the piece was fabricated, and what components were handmade, outsourced, or 3D printed. The narrative is important. Use this space to help make your case and support your proposed project. (1,000 characters with spaces max for each image description.)
- YOUR WORK/10 IMAGES. Work must be made in the past two years. Images should feature your work only and should **NOT** be a collage of multiple pieces in one slide. The images should be approximately 900 X 1200 pixels and must be jpg file format. Your images should demonstrate a balance of content and design as well as a mastery of materials within a cohesive framework.

- A RISD Selection Committee selects and notifies two applicants for nomination by early-November.
- Selected nominees will receive information about the next steps in the Windgate-Lamar Application process. The national online application opens December 1. The application components will be similar to RISD's internal preliminary application. Plus, nominees will designate two individuals who will act as references; references will only be contacted if deemed necessary by the selection panel.
- Nominees are required to schedule a meeting in December with Lisa Cramer, the Grants & Residencies Manager. She will provide guidance throughout the process and editorial support.
- Nominees are required to schedule a meeting in December with Kevin Jankowski, Director, to review their images for the national application.
- Applicants must send a draft of the application and images to be submitted to Lisa for review by January 22, 2027.
- Selected nominees complete the online application by the deadline. Nominees can request a fee waiver from the Center for Craft (must be requested before the application is submitted.)
- Applicants are required to submit a final copy (PDF) of their application to the RISD Career Center.
- Awards are announced in April. Grants begin in May and end the following April.

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS:

- **Each attachment can be up to 3MB, however, please note that the TOTAL upload cannot be over 25MB.**
- **Avoid submitting at the last minute. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.**

- Review the guidelines and required materials carefully before you begin the application.
- Follow all directions carefully.
- Prepare your application in advance in a word document and check your spelling. **The application form will not save your answers once you leave the page.**
- Documents/Responses within a PDF should be in the same order as listed in the guidelines. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows.
- Attachments should be named appropriately as file names are visible to reviewers.
- After you submit you will see a submission screen and receive an email confirming a successful submission.

RISD CONTACT

Lisa Cramer, RISD Grants & Residencies Manager
lcramer@risd.edu, 401.454.6669

Updated 9/2026