

HRI Prizes for Research in the Humanities, 2025–26

HRI has recognized outstanding humanities research in numerous ways since its inception (as IPRH). The **HRI Prizes for Research in the Humanities** allow us to celebrate excellence in humanities scholarship, and we are pleased to solicit submissions and nominations for the 2025–26 academic year.

These prizes recognize outstanding humanities research at the University of Illinois, with awards given at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. The awards will be presented at a reception in May 2027.

Submissions are invited from scholars in all sectors of the university with focus on the humanities and humanities-inflected research.

Eligibility and Terms

The awards are open to all full-time University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students and faculty (tenure-line and specialized). For details regarding the eligible date range for a published essay or a student's essay for a course, please see the appropriate guideline category below.

The winners in the faculty and graduate student categories will receive awards of \$500. For faculty, this sum is awarded as research funds deposited to the appropriate departmental account.

Application Deadline

March 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Submission Procedures

All submissions must be accompanied by a completed [nomination form](#), which can be downloaded from the HRI website. The submissions must contain NO references to the applicant's name or other identifying details. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines will be disqualified from consideration.

Please email the submission and the nomination form as two *separate* attached PDF documents to apply-hri@illinois.edu. Please note that scans of journals or book pages are *not* acceptable. Submissions should be in *manuscript* form, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with all identifying details removed (including self-citations or references), and conform to the length limitations specified for the appropriate entry category (faculty, graduate student, or undergraduate student).

Faculty Guidelines

Submission must be double-spaced and single-sided, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with a length of 15–25 pages (*exclusive* of notes, bibliography or works cited, and/or picture/illustration appendices); the submission may be an excerpt of appropriate length from a longer work. Self-references and self-citations should be redacted or otherwise edited to remove identifying information from the essay.

Submissions must have been **published between January 1, 2025 and the application deadline** in a book, journal, edited collection, or peer-reviewed electronic or online publication. (Accepted but still forthcoming works are **not** eligible.) The submission may be nominated by a full-time U of I faculty member, or self-nominated.

Ideally submissions are limited to one per faculty member, but as publications often come in clusters, faculty are limited to a **maximum of two submissions per award cycle**.

Graduate Student Guidelines

Submissions must be double-spaced and single-sided, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with a length of 10–20 pages (*exclusive* of notes, bibliography or works cited, and/or picture/illustration appendices). Excerpts of an appropriate length from a longer work are acceptable.

The submitted essay must have been completed for an Urbana campus course taken for credit during the 2024–25 academic year (or submitted from March 1, 2025 to May 15, 2025 for a course taken for credit in the spring of the previous academic year), or the submission may be an excerpt of appropriate length from the graduate student’s thesis, dissertation, or equivalent research project.

The submission may be nominated by the thesis director or faculty member who taught the course for which the paper was written, or self-nominated, with the signature-approval of the faculty member/thesis director required on the nomination form, in either case.

Graduate students are limited to **one submission per award cycle**.

Undergraduate Student Guidelines

Submissions must be double-spaced and single-sided, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with a length of 8–15 pages (*exclusive* of notes, bibliography or works cited, and/or picture/illustration appendices).

The submitted essay must have been completed for an Urbana campus course taken for credit during the 2024–25 academic year (or submitted from March 1, 2025 to May 15, 2025 for a course taken for credit in the spring of the previous academic year, or submitted during the summer 2025 academic session).

The submission may be nominated by the faculty member of the course for which the paper was written, or self-nominated, with the signature approval of the faculty member required on the nomination form in either case.

Undergraduate students are limited to **one submission per award cycle**.

Selection

The applications will be read by a selection committee comprised of members of the HRI Advisory Committee and the HRI Director and Deputy Director (both of whom serve on the committee in

an ex officio capacity). Submissions will be judged in a blind review process; names and any other identifying details must not be included in the essay itself. The essays will be evaluated on their scholarly merit, the intellectual rigor of the questions being posed, and the quality of the writing.

Notifications

All applications will be acknowledged via email, and all applicants will be notified in mid-April 2026, when the prize selection process is concluded.

Questions about these awards and the nomination procedures should be addressed to Nancy Castro at ncastro@illinois.edu.

You can view past [prize recipients](#) at the HRI website.