

## Research-Related Crowdfunding

The use of third-party crowdfunding platforms to raise money to support research projects is becoming increasingly common. In response to this trend, Wellesley College has developed the procedures below to guide research projects seeking to use funds raised through crowdfunding mechanisms. The following procedures apply to all faculty, research scientists, students and staff using a crowdfunding platform to generate funds to support research projects at Wellesley:

1. Faculty, research scientists, students and staff who wish to fund raise for projects which will not use any Wellesley College resources whatsoever (including facilities, technology, equipment, or institutional effort) are free to pursue crowdfunding independently of Wellesley College and are not required to seek institutional approval. Any funds raised in support of such projects will not be received or managed by Wellesley College. Tax and legal implications are the responsibility of the individual and it is the sole responsibility of the individual to determine such implications.
2. Proposals to fund research projects at Wellesley College (or using Wellesley College facilities, technology, equipment, or institutional effort) through crowdfunding platforms must receive unit-level (i.e. departmental and deans) and institutional prior approval. Researchers should complete an internal sponsored research routing form at: [https://webapps.wellesley.edu/sponsored\\_research/](https://webapps.wellesley.edu/sponsored_research/) which will automatically route to the department chair, the Office of Sponsored Research and the VP for Finance. Once approved, the researcher will receive an email and may launch the crowdfunding effort.
3. Wellesley College reserves the right to reject funds in the event that prior approval was not obtained.
4. Use of Wellesley College's insignia, logo, and other related promotional branding materials is authorized only for Wellesley College projects subject to the institutional approval requirements described above.
5. All crowdsourced funds in support of Wellesley College research projects will be treated as a restricted gift to Wellesley College. The crowdfunding platform will be the entity that is credited for the gift (i.e., not individual donors), and all stewardship commitments made by the researcher to the individual donors and the crowdfunding platform are the sole responsibility of the researcher.
6. Faculty, research scientists, students and staff are required to comply with all applicable College policies and procedures, including those related to research compliance such as IRB and IACUC, disclosure of significant financial interests, intellectual property, and all other relevant requirements.