Frequently Asked Questions:
Early Career Research Grants to Advance the Science of Love, 2027-2028

The Love Consortium is pleased to announce a competition to fund innovative research on foundational questions about love. The call for proposals is supported by a broader initiative that seeks to understand whether and how love may serve as the basis for ethical behavior and decision-making processes across ages, relationship types, groups, and geographies.

This document includes frequently asked questions regarding eligibility for this funding opportunity.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must have a doctorate degree in Psychology or other related field (e.g., Neuroscience, Human Development) at the time of submission. They must have earned their degree within the past 6 years (i.e., after January 15, 2021), excluding any medical or parental leave.
2. Applicants must not have been previously awarded research funding from The Love Consortium. Those who applied for but did not receive funding in the past are welcome to apply again.
3. Among other uses, funds may be used for a summer stipend for the applicant if they do not have another source of funding; for course buyouts during the academic year; for supplies and services to conduct biological assays on stored specimens; for participant compensation; for paying research assistants; for software to conduct behavioral coding on video records; for registration fees or costs associated with statistical methods workshops or academic conferences; and, where justified, to cover costs for the grantee to travel to live/work on site for research activities or to travel to workshops or academic conferences.

Q: How is eligibility adjusted for parental leave or other major life events?
A: We recognize that parental leave and other significant life events can affect the timing and progression of academic careers. When determining eligibility, we will consider extensions to the standard post-PhD eligibility period for applicants whose careers have been significantly disrupted by these circumstances.

For parenting-related extensions, we will be using a guideline of **18 months per child**. We will also consider extensions for other major life events that have substantially disrupted an applicant's academic career, such as illness, family caregiving responsibilities, or societal unrest (e.g., war, natural disaster).

If you believe your circumstances may affect your eligibility, please contact us with a brief explanation of your situation so that we can consider your eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can I apply if I am an early career researcher but cannot serve as the official principal investigator (PI) at my institution?
A: Yes. If your institution requires another individual to serve as the official principal investigator (PI), you may still submit your application as the lead researcher. You should prepare and submit all application materials as though you are the PI and clearly describe your role in leading and carrying out the proposed research. The subcontract paperwork will be issued in the name of your institution's official PI, but the award should be listed on your CV under your name rather than theirs.

Q: Can I apply if I am unaffiliated with a university / lack formal institutional support?
A: No. Applicants must have an institutional affiliation that allows their institution to receive grant funds through a subcontract. The Love Consortium, based in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, can only establish subcontracts with other institutions, so we are unable to fund applications from unaffiliated or independent researchers.

Q: Can multiple early career scholars from the same collaborative research group submit proposals for different projects or research questions?
A: Yes. Multiple proposals from the same collaborative research group are welcome, provided each proposal focuses on a distinct research question.