

Bankard FAQs

1. What is the Bankard fund ?

The Bankard Fund at the University of Virginia was established in 1979 by a donation from Merrill Bankard and his wife Georgia Bankard to support research programs that will have the greatest possible influence upon the *development and continuation of the public policy necessary for a healthy private business system and a healthy national economy.*

2. Who decides how the Bankard Fund is used ?

The Bankard Fund is administered by the Vice President for Research. The Vice President appoints a Committee of University faculty members to solicit proposals and to make recommendations about funding.

3. Who is on the Bankard Committee ?

The rotating membership of the Bankard Committee has been drawn from faculty in the schools of Arts and Sciences, Law, Graduate Business, and Engineering.

4. What kinds of proposals does the Bankard Committee fund ?

The Committee solicits proposals in three categories: 1) faculty research projects; 2) predoctoral dissertation fellowships; and 3) lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences.

5. What is the funding cycle ?

The Committee solicits proposals in the fall, due in early November. The Committee typically makes funding recommendations in December. Funding for approved projects then typically begins in June of the following year.

6. What criteria does the Committee use to make funding decisions ?

The Committee evaluates proposals using the following criteria:

- a) Whether the project meets the stated purpose of the Bankard gift.
- b) The scholarly merits of the proposed project.
- c) The research record of the applicant.
- d) Whether the project funds graduate students.
- e) Whether the applicant is a junior faculty member.

7. *Are only faculty and graduate students from Economics, Darden and Commerce eligible to apply ?*

No. There is no restriction on the school or department of the applicant. The Committee has funded proposals from Law, Engineering, History, Politics, and Environmental Sciences.

8. *What are some examples of successful proposals in the last funding cycle ?*

Faculty Research Grants:

Jennifer Burns, History, “Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right”

Charles Holt, Economics, “Reverse Auctions for Mortgage Backed Securities”

Jeffrey Jenkins, Politics, “Investigating the Determinants of Landmark Economic Legislation”

Sonal Pandya, Politics, “Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment Regulation”

Sheetal Sekhri, Economics, “Welfare Effects of Interrupted Electricity Provision in Developing Countries”

Dissertation Research Fellowships:

Christopher Clapp, Economics, “Should My Car Move or Should We? An Intra-Household Model of Residential and Commuting Choices”

Laura Phillips, History, “The American Fair Trade Controversy: Federalism, Interest Groups and Economic Thought in Transition, 1880-1940”

Katie Tulley, Environmental Sciences, “Organic Coffee in Crisis”