



The FinTech Center has identified the following research areas for **2021**. We have compiled a few preliminary resources for you to explore in determining your specific topic.

- 1) [Scalability and Privacy in Blockchain Networks](#)
- 2) [Value and Monetization in Blockchain Networks](#)
- 3) [Cryptocurrencies and Sustainability](#)
- 4) [Policy, Regulations and Contracts](#)

### **Submission Process**

Applicants must first submit a letter of intent (LOI) by **February 19, 2021**. The FinTech Center will select LOIs based on the suitability of the topic and the scope and methodology of the writing. Selected researchers must submit a complete paper by **August 30, 2021**. The completed papers will undergo a peer-review process and **up to five of those papers will be awarded \$10,000 each**. The competitive funding will be provided to the author(s) in proportion to the amount of work contributed to the final research paper. The announcement of awardees will be made on **October 11, 2021**. Awardees are expected to present their research findings at the HBCU Blockchain Research and Innovation Conference **Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 2021**.

### **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

The letter of intent should be a narrative of no more than one page (600 words) and should include:

- Author(s) name(s)
- Affiliations
- Research question and the primary area it addresses
- Why the research question is important
- The existing research gap and how you will address it
- Methodology to be followed



A letter of intent will be accepted no later than **February 19, 2021**. No more than one LOI will be accepted per author. The FinTech Center will select LOIs based on the suitability of the topic and the scope and methodology of the writing.

### **Completed Research Paper**

Selected researchers must submit a complete paper by **August 30, 2021**.

The paper should be about twenty (20) pages, excluding the Bibliography, using 1½ spaces and 12-point Times Roman font,

The paper must include:

- Author(s) name (s), consistent with the LOI
- Affiliation, consistent with the LOI
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Preliminary Results
- Bibliography

The paper must be high-quality enough to be accepted by a leading conference in the discipline. In addition to the paper, the CVs of all the authors need to be submitted. Decisions on the selected papers will be made by **October 11, 2021**.

Awardees are expected to present their research findings at the HBCU Blockchain Research and Innovation Conference **Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 2021**.