

2016-2017 Faculty Research & Development Grants

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL Deadline is November 20, 2015

Overview of the Research & Development Grants Program

Faculty members are invited to apply for a grant for faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity (RSCA) projects to be conducted during the 2016-2017 academic year. Excellence in RSCA builds an individual's CV, informs their teaching, and strengthens the University's academic reputation. Each year, the University sets aside funds specifically for this competitive proposal opportunity to give faculty members additional resources that will enhance their ability to be productive teacher-scholars in their discipline.

For 2016-2017, there will be approximately \$93,000 available to support proposed grants in this competition, and the Minigrant Review Committee (MRC) hopes to make approximately 15 awards.

Eligibility and Conditions

Grant proposals may be submitted by individual faculty members or by a team of faculty members for support in the form of reassigned time, summer stipend, student research assistant support, supplies, equipment, travel, *etc.* Only one grant proposal per faculty member will be accepted.

Proposed budgets should be appropriate for the project described, but because this competition aims to support as many faculty members as possible, proposal budget should not exceed \$9000. Request for faculty summer support will be limited to \$3000. Only tenured, tenure-track, or full-time lecture faculty may request reassigned time. (For an applicant's budgeting purposes, reassigned time for 2016-2017 should be valued at \$1800 per unit.)

The Review Process and Considerations

The MRC evaluates every proposed project for relative coherence, clarity, and general academic quality. Proposal evaluation includes the project goals and outcomes, the significance of the project, the research plan and methodology, the plan for disseminating project results, the project timeline, and project assessment. These criteria are described in more detail below.

The MRC shall evaluate how each proposed project will contribute to the professional development needs of the project's applicant(s). Examples of professional development include publishing scholarly work, convening or presenting in academic conferences, innovations in the scholarship of teaching and learning effectiveness, traveling to work with collaborators, maintaining or deepening disciplinary expertise, and exploring new scholarly avenues. Additionally, special consideration shall be given to proposals that are more intensive and could not reasonably move forward without support.

The MRC shall carefully consider the status of each grant writer (lecturer, probationary, or tenured faculty member) and strive to achieve a reasonable balance across statuses as it establishes a final ranking of proposals. Special consideration may be given to probationary faculty. With the exception of probationary faculty, faculty shall be given lower priority for an award if they were granted a minigrant for 2015-2016.

Minigrant proposals are encouraged to lay groundwork for the pursuit of funds from external sponsors. Those interested in pursuing external grant funding should work with the Research and Sponsored Programs pre-award staff to identify opportunities that align with their interests.

Applicants are both encouraged to write for a general audience (reviewers) and to write for a scholarly audience (their disciplinary peers).

Review Criteria

Because every discipline has its own standards for scholarship and teaching, reviewers will make every effort to take disciplinary context into consideration when they evaluate a proposal. Each proposal will be reviewed on the basis of criteria that express the intent of [Senate Policy 11-14](#). These criteria are:

Project goals and outcomes: The proposal clearly describes the focus of the project (*e.g.*, research problem, objective), sets clear goals and outcomes, and it explains the steps that will be taken to realize project goals.

Research plan and methodology: The proposal conveys a complete and well thought-out plan for the project that describes the activities of all individuals involved in the project. Depending on the scope of the proposal, this section may consider data collection methods (*e.g.*, interviews, sampling protocols), compliance requirements (*e.g.*, IRB), and data analysis. If support is requested for a student research assistant, the proposal must also include a description of their role and how the faculty member(s) will provide them mentoring or management.

Professional development benefits for faculty: The proposed makes clear how the project will advance each individual applicant's research, scholarship, and creative activity. The proposal discusses whether the applicant(s) intend to pursue external funding and identifies which courses of external funding are likely to be pursued. If a team of faculty members is involved in the project, the benefits for each team member should be addressed separately.

Dissemination plan: The level and type of dissemination is appropriate for the project, its goals, and its outcomes.

Project timeline: The project goals and objectives are attainable within the timeline of the proposal.

Project assessment: The proposal describes how the product(s) of the project will be assessed and evaluated to determine the degree of success achieved. For instance, project products or outcomes will be identified.

Budget: The proposed budget is reasonable in the context of the project description, and the project costs are necessary to achieve project goals and outcomes.

Once award decisions have been announced, all applicants will receive written reviews from the MRC that include what the committee regarded as strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. A list of awards made will be posted to the minigrant program web page.

Proposal Requirements

Proposal documents should be prepared using a word processor and should use single-spaced text in a font size no smaller than 12 point. A font should be chosen that is easy for a reviewer to read. The MRC suggests Times New Roman, Palatino, or Computer Modern fonts. Page margins (top, bottom, left, and right) should be no smaller than 1 inch, and pages must be numbered.

Each proposal package should consist of the elements described below. If an applicant has received a minigrant in the past five years, the applicant should also include a copy of the post-project report submitted upon the completion of each of those minigrants. No report on minigrants awarded for 2015-2016 will be required.

Proposal Summary (250 words)

The Project Summary outlines the proposed project in a way that is suitable for sharing independently of other proposal components. This summary should be no longer than a half-page and be appropriate for publication on the CI web page. This summary should be the first section in the Proposal Narrative (described below). The applicant will also separately submit the text of this summary as part of the online application.

Proposal Narrative (2-4 pages)

The proposal narrative should include sections, starting with the Proposal Summary, that target the categories that will be used to review the proposal, *e.g.*, project goals and outcomes, significance of the research or creative project, research plan and methodology, dissemination plan, and project assessment.

Proposal Budget (1 page)

The budget page should include an itemized statement of expected costs of the project and a subtotal of those costs along with a subtotal for reassigned time if requested. All costs should be listed and their use described and justified. The need for reassigned time should be justified separately, and the applicant should specify when they would like the reassigned time granted (Fall or Spring). Requests for three units of reassigned time are normal. Requests for six units of reassigned time are allowed, but very rarely granted.

Funds will be available on 1 July 2016 and must be spent by 20 June 2017. Due to general fund spending constraints that are tied to the fiscal year, summer stipends may only be available for work in July 2016 or in June 2017. Please budget accordingly. Instructions on using funds will be sent to PIs and Program Analysts in June 2016.

Curriculum Vitae

An up-to-date copy of the *curriculum vitae* for each applicant should be supplied.

Submission

The proposal package must be submitted by midnight, Friday, November 20th, 2015, using the InfoReady Review proposal portal for this competition at

<http://csuci.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1743929>

The portal will be open for submissions on Monday 26 October 2015. All proposal documents must be submitted as attachments in PDF format using the portal. The submission portal will also ask for basic information about applicant(s) that will aid in the proposal review process.

If awarded, faculty recipients shall submit a report of results by August 31, 2016. The format for the report will accompany award documents.

Example External Grants

There are many external funding opportunities that are available to CI faculty. Presented below are a sample of competitions that would have great value to the institution and any individual who won such an award.

NEH Summer Stipend: A highly competitive program that gives faculty two months of summer stipend to pursue their scholarship. This is a limited submission contest meaning that CSU Channel Islands is allowed to have two faculty submit proposals each year. Selection for the Summer 2017 competition will be announced in Spring 2016.

NEH Awards for Faculty at Hispanic Serving Institutions: This program supports individual faculty or staff members at Hispanic-Serving Institutions pursuing research of value to humanities scholars, students, or general audiences. Awards are designed to be flexible, allowing applicants to define the audience, type of research, award periods, and administrative arrangements that best fit their projects.

Fullbright Scholar Program: The *Core Fulbright Scholar Program* supports activities and projects that recognize and promote the critical relationship between educational exchange and international understanding.

NSF Early Career Development (CAREER) Program: This is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award: This program aims to support meritorious research, expose students to research, and strengthen the research environment of the institutions. Preliminary data are not required, and grants are renewable.

Please work with staff in the Research and Sponsored Programs Office to learn more about any of these and other funding opportunities (*e.g.*, submission due dates, solicitation requirements).