

Research Collaboration Fund

Proposal Deadline: MARCH 4, 2011



Purpose

The research collaboration fund supports research collaboration among faculty and students working on interdisciplinary research topics, such as water, neuroscience, genomics, digital humanities, or climate change. Example uses of funding include organization of workshops, seminars, application of collaborative technologies, retreats and development of online resources. Each collaboration should engage a large group of faculty (normally 10 or more), representing at least two schools at USC. Funding can be for up to three years, with the possibility of competitive renewal thereafter.

The aim of these awards is not to fund specific research projects, but rather to support teams of faculty who aim to establish or foster a community of scholars at USC organized around a broad topic of shared interest. The awards fund the activities that help to develop this collaborative group. These activities should lay the groundwork for members of the collaborative group to create new research projects, and should contribute to strengthening the individual research programs of its members.

Awards under this program are made through a competitive process, based on proposals submitted by a lead faculty investigator along with at least one additional investigator holding a primary faculty appointment in a different school than the lead investigator.

Proposal Narrative Section (Up to Four Pages)

(1) Research Impact

Describe the nature of research, and the type of work currently being conducted at USC, and the type of new research that might occur as a result of the collaboration. List the faculty who would participate, and explain their potential contributions to the collaboration. Describe steps already taken to promote collaboration among the group of faculty, and prior accomplishments.

(2) Activities

Provide a list of activities that will occur in the first year of the collaboration. Describe how you will convene the members of your collaboration and foster scholarly exchange among them. Explain the purpose of the activities, and the outcomes you expect to result. Describe how the collaboration will affect educational programs and opportunities for USC students.

(3) Budget

Provide a budget explaining the use of funds for year one. Budget should not exceed \$30,000. Funds may be used for the costs of holding events (e.g. meals, rental of space, advertising) and may include travel costs for outside speakers visiting USC to participate. A limited amount of funds, not to exceed \$10,000, may be used for staff or student salaries/benefits to assist in organizing events. Funds may also be used to apply technologies to enable collaboration, including websites. No funds may be used for faculty or researcher salaries/benefits, overhead or tuition.

(4) Leverage

Describe any additional resources that will support the collaboration provided by departments, centers or schools.

Prior Awardees of Seed Grants: If you previously received a research collaboration fund seed grant, and are now applying for a full grant, provide the following additional information (up to two pages, in addition to the four pages above):

- (1) List and describe activities held to date, identifying faculty participants.
- (2) Planned activities between now and end of year.
- (3) Budget expended to date, and expenses planned between now and end of year.
- (4) Summary of most significant accomplishments.

Also attach an ASR statement showing the status of your account.

Criteria for Support

- (1) **Impact:** Degree to which the collaboration makes a substantial different in USC's research activities, and the degree to which the collaboration fills an unmet need at USC.
- (2) **Creativity:** Level of creativity displayed in the organization of collaboration activities.
- (3) **Participation:** Number of faculty who will actively participate, and the degree to which the participants span multiple schools.
- (4) **Leverage:** Priority is given to requests that are leveraged against supporting commitments from other units at USC.
- (5) **Synergy with Education Programs:** Degree to which program involves students, and provides or expands educational opportunities.

Review and Awards

Faculty identified as participants will be surveyed to assess the strength of their participation. In addition, proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee, which will provide a prioritized list to the Vice President of Research for final decision. Approximately three to four awards will be made this year, depending on the quality of the submitted proposals. If a topic area has received prior provost level support, accomplishments will be factored into the award decision.

Renewal

Awards will be made for a three year period, subject to an annual progress review and an annual activity plan, and continued availability of funding. Funds that are not expended at the end of a fiscal year will be returned to the Office of the Provost. At the end of three years, collaborations may reapply for funding on a competitive basis.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

Proposals must be submitted electronically as a *single* file in Word (.doc) or Acrobat (.pdf) format. Proposals must be submitted via the Office of Research application submission portal:

www.usc.edu/research/upload/

Proposals are due by **March 4, 2011 at 5:00 PM**. Questions about the proposal submission process can be directed to Alisa Gonzales in the Office of Research at alisagon@usc.edu or 213-740-6709.

Further Information and Program Contact Information

For additional information or inquiries about the Research Collaboration Fund program, please contact:

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