

University Research Council Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program

Application Kit for Fiscal Year 2007

Objective

The Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program is designed to enhance opportunities for the University's faculty to engage in multidisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. The program encourages faculty with different skills and training to address complex problems that span the humanities, social sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and/or the biological and health sciences. Nontraditional collaborative alliances, e.g., between disciplines in the humanities and the health sciences or between disciplines in engineering and the social sciences, are strongly encouraged. The Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the University Research Council (URC).

Eligibility

All University of Pittsburgh full-time faculty members on all campuses may submit proposals. Faculty from outside the University of Pittsburgh are not eligible to participate, even as co-investigators. Multidisciplinary Small Grants cannot be used to support or supplement faculty salaries, to finance travel to meetings and conferences, or to fund preexisting research projects. Computer equipment is not given priority.

Funding Availability

One grant is awarded annually. Funding is \$50,000 per year for three years. Funding for years two and three is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year. The PI is expected to meet with representatives of

the URC once each semester, submit a written progress report to the URC by June 1 of each award year, and submit a written final report to the URC within six months of the project's end date. It is expected that the project will be self-sustaining by the end of the three-year award period.

Application Process

Funding decisions are made through a two-stage process. Applicants submit a single-spaced, two-page white paper, which is reviewed by a faculty committee comprised of URC members. Applicants whose white papers are accepted then submit a 10-page proposal. The proposal is reviewed by the same committee that reviewed the white paper. Additional details on the proposal requirements will be provided when the stage-two participants are selected.

White papers should describe the proposed project, paying particular attention to the novelty of the project, its multidisciplinary nature, and its potential for future development. The white paper also should outline the skills that each investigator contributes to the project and how this combination of skills will ensure good progress toward the investigators' objectives.

Six copies of the white paper should be sent to:

Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program
George E. Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research
Office of the Provost
826 Cathedral of Learning

Review Procedures

Proposed projects must be the original work of the project team. Projects will be evaluated in terms of their exceptional creativity, potential for ground-breaking discovery, prospects for making seminal research and scholarly advances, and potential for future funding. Recommendations will be submitted to the Vice Provost for Research, who will make the final decision on awards.

Deadlines

White papers must be submitted to the Office of the Provost no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6, 2006. Those applicants whose white papers are accepted will be notified by Friday, February 3.

Full proposals must be received at the Office of the Provost no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday,

March 3, 2006. Notification of funding decisions will be made by Friday, April 7, 2006.

Award Period

The award period begins July 3, 2006 and continues through June 30, 2008.

Additional Information

Members of the URC will be available to answer questions about the program at 3:00 on Wednesday, November 9, and at 3:00 on Thursday, December 8, in 817 Cathedral of Learning.

Please contact George Klinzing (klinzing@engrng.pitt.edu) or Charles Lyon (lyoncw@pitt.edu) for further information.