

University Research Council Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program

Application Kit for Fiscal Year 2011

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 supports faculty members with different skills and training, who wish 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. Previously funded projects examined the health and environmental effects of nanotechnology (chemistry, engineering, and public health); suffering (anthropology, medicine, psychology, psychiatry, and public health), and direct childcare work (business and education). The Multidisciplinary Small Grant Program is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the University Research Council (URC).

Eligibility

All principal investigator(s) and co-investigator(s) must be full-time, tenured or tenure-stream faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh. Faculty from outside the University of Pittsburgh are not eligible to participate. Multidisciplinary Small Grants cannot be used to support or supplement faculty salaries, to finance travel to meetings and conferences, or to fund preexisting research or scholarly projects. Computer equipment is not given priority.

Funding Availability

One grant is awarded annually. Total project funding is \$150,000, which is dispersed in annual installments of \$50,000. 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 academic year, 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 completion. 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 papers. Additional details on the proposal requirements will be provided when the second-stage 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 towards the investigators' objectives.

White papers should be submitted electronically, in PDF format, to George E. Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research, at klinzing@provost.pitt.edu.

Review Procedures

Proposed projects must be the original work of the project team. White papers will be reviewed by faculty members from a wide range of academic disciplines, so they should be written in a broadly accessible style. 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 Friday, March 19, 2010. Applicants whose white papers are accepted will be notified by Friday, April 9, 2010.

Award Period

The award period begins July 1, 2010, and continues through June 30, 2013.

Additional Information

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