

University of California

Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Program

Frequently Asked Questions – FY 2014-15 Version: May 21, 2014

1. Who can apply?

This opportunity is open to UC multicampus collaborations involving three or more UC campuses (or a minimum of 2 UC campuses and one of the UC-managed national labs (LBNL, LLNL, LANL)). The application is submitted by a Lead PI at a UC campus on behalf of the collaboration. Each participating site (campus or national lab) that receives funding through the award must identify a site lead (or “collaborating PI”). There can be only one Lead PI, and one Co-PI, per campus. Additional research collaborators at each campus or lab may be included as Collaborating Investigators, or “Co-I”. While there is no specific limit on the number of Co-Is, only those who contribute in a significant manner to the research should be listed. To serve as a PI or Co-PI, you must hold an academic appointment that confers PI status as outlined in the [UC Contracts and Grants Manual](#), and in accordance with your campus Office of Research policy.

2. How do I apply?

Applications are submitted electronically using the proposalCentral website. ProposalCentral can be accessed at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/LOI> instructions are attached to the RFP at http://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/files/mrpi/2015_MRPI_RFP_Final_v0501.pdf. Instructions to the full application are available upon acceptance of the LOI after June 3, 2014. Full proposals are due August 7, 2014. No late LOIs or proposals can be accepted.

3. Can I submit more than one application?

The proposal is submitted by a Lead PI on behalf of the multicampus collaboration. The collaboration represents a team of faculty across multiple campuses engaged in research on a thematic issue or topic that has the potential to significantly benefit UC as a system, and meet the other funding priorities. A collaboration cannot apply for both a program and a planning award. There is no explicit prohibition on applying for two Program Awards, or on an individual faculty member or researcher participating in more than one proposal.

However, please note that the intent of the MRPI is to encourage cutting edge research of the highest priority in a particular thematic or interdisciplinary area that takes advantage of UC’s distributed excellence across the system. Funding is expected to be highly competitive. The reviewers will look for strong evidence of genuine collaboration and coordination, and the submission of multiple proposals runs the risk of communicating a lack of prioritization, cohesion and commitment to a particular effort. We encourage you to focus your efforts on submitting one strong proposal rather than multiple disjointed proposals.

4. Should I apply for a Two-year Planning Award or a Multi-year Program Award?

The RFP offers two kinds of awards. You may apply for one kind, or the other, but not both. Planning awards are for *new* multicampus collaborations only. They are non-renewable and proposers can request a maximum of \$150,000 in direct costs per year for up to 2 years. Recipients of Planning awards are eligible to apply for Program awards in the future. Program awards can be for new or existing multicampus collaborations. They have no maximum dollar request, and can request 2, 3, or 4

years of support. Existing MRPIs, MRUs, ORUs with systemwide activities, and other established multicampus collaborations may apply for Planning Awards only. New collaborations that require more than 2 years of funding, more than \$150,000 in direct costs may apply for program awards.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

5. Who is eligible to submit a proposal?

The Lead PI must have PI status at a UC campus (for guidelines on PI status, contact your campus Office of Research or refer to Section 1-530 of the [UC Contracts and Grants Manual](#)).

6. Are researchers from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL), Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) or Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) eligible to apply?

The Lead PI must have PI status at a UC campus. PIs from the three UC-managed labs may apply as a lead PI only if they have PI status at a UC campus and apply through that UC campus. Researchers based solely at one of the three UC-managed National Laboratories are eligible to serve as Co-PIs or Co-Investigators(as defined in Q # 1 above).

7. How many campuses must be involved?

Involvement of a minimum of 3 UC campuses is required. Collaboration among at least 2 UC campuses and one or more of the UC-managed labs is also allowable.

8. May I submit an application to extend/renew my current MRPI Award?

Current MRPI awardees are eligible to apply for a renewal, using the Program Award type only. Please keep in mind that established multicampus endeavors must demonstrate compelling benefit to the UC research enterprise as well as compelling justification for ongoing system-wide support.

9. Can Non-UC Researchers Collaborate on an MRPI Project?

Funding for the MRPI program comes from the campus assessment fund to support systemwide research. UC PIs must lead the collaborations, and should find experts across the UC system with whom to collaborate. In rare cases, if expertise, resources, or facilities are unavailable at any UC campus or UC-managed national lab, the PI may request funds for a contract to obtain specific services outside UC. This request must be accompanied by an explanation about why the expertise or facilities cannot be identified within UC.

10. Can MRPI funding be used to conduct clinical trials?

No.

AWARD AMOUNTS AND BUDGET

11. How much total funding is available through this competition

We anticipate at least \$9.5 million total over two years will be available to fund all MRPI awards in the initial two year period. However, the UC budget for 14-15 is not yet approved and the total available MRPI funding may change, particularly over a two-year time period.

12. Is there a budget limit per application?

Planning awards can request a maximum of \$150,000 per year in direct costs for a maximum of two years. *Program* awards have no minimum or maximum dollar request.

13. What expenditures are allowable under the Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Program?

Budget instructions will be provided with the full application materials. These will be made available once LOIs are approved.

14. Can MRPI funds be used to support undergraduate students as well as graduate students?

Yes, as long as the purpose is to support the research endeavor and not student financial aid or general education activities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

15. Is a Letter of Intent (LOI) required in order to submit a proposal?

Yes, all applicants must submit an LOI prior to submitting a full proposal.

16. We missed the deadline to submit a Letter of Intent, can we still submit a full proposal without the LOI?

No, unfortunately we are unable to accept Letters after the deadline.

17. Is the LOI binding?

The LOI must fairly present your proposed collaboration, research topic, and approximate total budget. Updates may be made to the proposed collaboration, personnel, and abstract when the full proposal is submitted. However, these should fall within the scope of the original LOI. The final proposal submission must include a detailed final budget request.

18. What, if any, selection will be made based on the LOI?

LOIs will be reviewed to confirm eligibility as described in the RFP. No selection will be made based on the proposed research topic or content of the abstract, however UCRI staff may provide feedback on the perceived alignment between the proposed collaboration and MRPI's guiding principles and funding priorities and LOIs that appear to fall outside the intended scope of this program may be rejected.