How to Apply:
All application materials must be submitted online via proposalCENTRAL. On the proposalCENTRAL home page (https://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp), log in to your account (or create one if you are a new user), click “Create New Proposal”, and then select “University of California – Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) 2 Year Planning/Pilot Award” or “University of California – Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) Multi-Year Program Award” as appropriate. Applicants are required to submit an LOI as the first step in the application process. The full proposal materials are available only after approval of the LOI. Additional instructions regarding LOI submission are available in Appendix 2 of the RFP dated March 23, 2016.

Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time
Full Proposals are due Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time
(Please note that deadlines appear as 3:00 PM Eastern Time in proposalCENTRAL)

Eligibility and Collaborative Structure

1. Who can submit a proposal for this funding opportunity?
Aside from the exceptions noted below, any academic appointee who holds Principal Investigator (PI) status at one of the 10 UC campuses [Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara or Santa Cruz] is eligible to submit a proposal on behalf of the collaborative team. For guidelines on PI status, contact your UC campus Office of Research, or refer to Section 1-530 of the UC Contracts and Grants Manual.

Exceptions: Academic personnel whose primary role is in university-wide, campus, or school administration above the level of Dean are not eligible to serve as PIs, Co-Pis, or other grant Key Personnel. In addition, any PI, Co-PI or Co-Investigator who has a concurrent MRPI or Catalyst award is ineligible to participate in a proposal. Concurrent award refers to currently funded projects with end dates after December 31, 2016.

2. How many collaborators are required for a proposal?
Each proposal must have a minimum of three collaborators, each from a different UC campus. In addition to participation from the three campuses, proposals may include additional collaborators from the same or other UC campuses, or from other systemwide research entities. Examples of other systemwide collaborators include researchers from any of the UC-affiliated national laboratories, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, any of the five UC medical centers, and Hastings School of Law. Each collaborating site must identify one and only one Co-PI (site lead)
with PI status at their home institution. Additional collaborators who make significant contributions to the research may be identified as Co-Investigators, or another appropriate project title.

3. **Can I participate in more than one proposal?**
   No. Any individual identified as Key Personnel (PI, Co-PI or Co-I) may participate in one and only one proposal. The proposal may be submitted to one and only one award type.

4. **I am involved in a current MRPI or Catalyst award that extends past January 1, 2017, but I do not draw salary from that award. Can I be involved in a proposal?**
   No. If you are Key Personnel (PI, Co-PI or Co-I) on a current MRPI or Catalyst Award with an end date after December 31, 2016, you are not eligible to participate in a new proposal, regardless of whether or not you draw salary from the award.

5. **Are researchers from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, or Los Alamos National Lab eligible to apply?**
   The Lead PI must have PI status at one of the ten UC campuses. Researchers from any of the three UC-affiliated national labs may apply as a Lead PI only if they have PI status at a UC campus and apply through that UC campus. UC national lab scientists who do not have PI status at a UC campus may serve as Co-PIs or Co-Investigators (see question 2). Please note that these awards do not include indirect cost recovery.

6. **I am a Cooperative Extension Advisor with the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. How can I participate in this collaborative research opportunity?**
   Cooperative Extension Advisors should collaborate with a Cooperative Extension specialist based at the Berkeley, Riverside or Davis campuses, or with other faculty on any of the 10 campuses who can serve as the Lead PI for the proposal.

7. **The RFP mentions faculty collaboration across career stages. Does that mean we have to have one PI at each level of the ladder-rank to be eligible?**
   No. Participation in this proposal is not limited to ladder-rank or Academic Senate-eligible appointments (see the Eligibility and Exclusions section of the RFP), and there is no required team composition for the proposal. The intent of the faculty collaboration requirement is to encourage faculty and researchers at all levels to collaborate and to provide mentorship and leadership opportunities for early-career faculty in to the context of UC multicampus research. The composition of the team itself is at the discretion of the collaborators and should be one that positions the project for success. The proposal should describe how the goal of meaningful faculty collaboration across career stages will be realized within the context of their proposed activities and research scope.

8. **Can non-UC researchers collaborate on an MRPI project?**
   The intent of this funding opportunity is to catalyze UC multicampus and systemwide collaboration and to leverage the distributed excellence of the UC system. UC PIs must lead the collaborations, and should find experts across the UC system with whom to collaborate. Community partners from within California may participate as part of the public/community engagement components. In rare cases, if technical expertise, resources, or facilities are unavailable at any UC campus or UC-managed national lab, the PI may request funds for a sub-contract to obtain specific services or expertise from outside UC. This request must be accompanied by an explanation about why the expertise or facilities cannot be identified within UC. If research collaborators from outside the UC
system are proposed, the application must identify the funding from other sources they will contribute to the project to support their participation in the proposed collaboration.

9. The RFP mentions that there may be exceptions to the organizational model in which the Lead PI’s home campus serves as the host campus. What does that mean?
The host campus is the location from which the proposal is submitted, and where the award is administered. Typically the host campus for the collaboration is the Lead PI’s home campus, and exceptions to this organizational model are rare. Exceptions to this arrangement must be described in the LOI and approved in advance of the full application submission. One example of an exception request might be a Multi-year Program Award proposal from an existing collaboration or MRU that has an established administrative home at one campus but a governance structure of rotating campus Leads or Directors. In the event the host campus is not the lead PI’s home campus, the proposal must be submitted by the campus where the award will be administered, and this campus will be designated the host campus.

Funding Restrictions and Other Sources of Support:

10. Should I apply for a Two-year Planning/Pilot Award or a Multi-year Program Award?
Each of the two award types have specific eligibility, duration, funding, and other constraints. Please review the RFP carefully and identify the award type that matches the status, research needs, and other circumstances of your proposed collaboration. Key personnel may participate in only one proposal so be sure to verify the eligibility of all proposed participants prior to submitting the LOI.

11. I received a Two-Year MRPI Planning Award in 2015, and now I want to request a new planning award this cycle with a different collaborative team. Do I have to apply in the Multi-Year Program Award category?
No. You are not eligible to apply in either category if your current MRPI or Catalyst Award has an end date after December 31, 2016. However, if your current funding ends by December 31, 2016, and you want to launch a new collaboration in a new topic area with a new team of collaborators, you may apply again in the Two-Year Planning/Pilot category. However, there cannot be overlap with the previously funded team or topic. If you want to extend the collaboration with additional partners or an expanded scope, then you should apply for the Multi-year Program Award.

12. Our multicampus collaboration receives systemwide funding from other (non-MRPI, non-Catalyst) sources. Can we also apply for MRPI funding to undertake a special project?
The intent of this funding opportunity is to support unique collaborations across a broad portfolio of University research and scholarship, and to launch new collaborations in path-breaking thematic or topical areas that may position them for extramural support. Available funding for new awards in all categories, topical areas, and disciplines is less than $6 million per year. Multicampus collaborations, institutes, centers, MRUs, or ORUs with systemwide activities that receive concurrent funding from other UCOP sources to support their collaboration may apply for MRPI or Catalyst funding for a unique research endeavor, but receive lower priority regardless of scientific merit. All sources of UCOP funding must be disclosed in the LOI and the full proposal, and funding overlap or support for ongoing operational activities is not allowed.
13. My MRPI or Catalyst award has an end date of December 31, 2016, but I expect the project to have remaining funds beyond the current end date. Can I submit a proposal for a new award in this competition?

If you have current MRPI or Catalyst funding with an award end date on or before December 31, 2016 at the time of the full proposal submission on July 21, 2016, you are eligible to apply as long as you meet all of the other eligibility criteria. However, you may not receive concurrent funding. Therefore, if your proposal is nominated for funding, you will have to provide a full accounting of all expenditures on your current award and return unexpended funds before a new award can be approved. Details will be provided in the pre-award notification.

14. Our collaboration would like to be considered for a President’s Research Catalyst Award. Do we have to fulfill any special requirement or submit additional information for this recognition?

No. No separate application or additional materials are required for consideration, and applicants may not self-nominate. Selection of the Catalyst Award recipients will be made from among the highly-meritorious proposals identified by the review panels at the discretion of the UC President.

Proposal Submission and Application Guidelines

15. Does the Letter of Intent need to be submitted through the campus Sponsored Projects or Contracts & Grants Office?

No. Unlike full proposals, LOIs do not need to be submitted through the C&G/ SPO. A signature from an institutional signing official is not required for LOI submission.

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

No. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept LOIs after the deadline, and only applicants who are invited to submit a proposal based on their LOI may proceed to the full proposal stage.

17. How will LOIs be evaluated and selected?

LOIs will be evaluated for responsiveness to the RFP in three areas: 1) eligibility and completeness; 2) compliance with program requirements; and 3) strength of alignment with the program goals and funding priorities. Scholarly merit will not be evaluated at the LOI stage. LOIs that are not well aligned with the intended scope or required components of this program may not be accepted.

18. My LOI was accepted, and our team received an invitation to submit a full proposal. Is the LOI binding or can we make changes?

The LOI must fairly present your proposed collaboration and activities, research topic and approximate total budget, and full proposals should fall within the scope of the original LOI. Updates, refinements and adjustments may be made to the proposed scope, abstract, and activities when the full proposal is submitted, and additional collaborators or campuses may be added. Once the LOI is approved, the host campus and Lead PI cannot be changed in the full proposal. Note: Compliance with the eligibility criteria will be reviewed again at the full proposal stage, and only eligible proposals will be forwarded for review. Eligible proposals that diverge significantly in scope, direction or budget requested from the approved LOI may be less competitive for funding.
19. Do we need to submit a letter of support from the host campus Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) as part of the application?
No. Proposals must be submitted through the host campus’ Sponsored Projects or Contracts & Grants Office, and this serves as documentation of the VCR’s approval. Letters of commitment may be included in cases where the use of or access to a lab/resource/facility may be limited or require permission or concurrence from a decision-maker for that resource or facility.

Award Amounts and Budget Requests

20. Can you provide any guidance on what size budget request would be considered reasonable for each award type?
We anticipate up to $6 million total annual funding will be available for new awards across all categories and award types. Budgets in both categories should be *judicious and well justified* in relation to the proposed activities and potential impact, demonstrate efficient use of funds, and include a justification that demonstrates knowledge of the reasonable and necessary costs to ensure success of the proposed activities. This means that some budget requests *in either award category* may reasonably request less than the $150,000 annual maximum allowed for Planning/Pilot Awards. In the previous cycle, the range of annual award amounts was $50,000-$1.4 million, and the median award size in the Program Award category was $323,000 annually. These data are provided as general information only and future funding decisions and award ranges will be based on the merit and ranking of the proposals, overall portfolio distribution and the degree to which meritorious proposals fulfill the overall program priorities and goals.

21. Can MRPI funds be used to support undergraduate students as well as graduate students?
Funding may be used to engage students in research training, internship activities, or other educational or curricular enhancement related to the project scope and topic. Award funds may not be used for student financial aid or general education activities.

Other Proposal Components

22. What kind of research activities are expected for undergraduates in these proposals?
A required component of the Multi-year Program Award is to identify specific contributions to undergraduate education through the research endeavor. This requirement may take many forms as appropriate to the research scope, activities and expected impact. Some examples include (but are not limited to) active participation in the data collection itself, training, internship or fieldwork opportunities, or enhancements to undergraduate curriculum. The collaborative team should propose activities or components that will be both meaningful and likely successful within the context of the type of research proposed.

23. What is meant by public/community engagement in the proposal requirements, and what kinds of activities would fulfill this goal?
A key component of the Multi-year Program Award is to catalyze public engagement in the UC research mission through opportunities for community collaborative research, citizen science, or other community outreach, education and engagement with the California public. Depending on the type of research, this component can take various forms, and the opportunities for public engagement and community benefit should be appropriate to the research scope and topic. The most effective and meaningful activities will be those that are well-integrated into, and strengthen
the quality of, the research effort while also advancing the education and service missions of the University. For more information, please refer to Review Criterion 5 in the Review and Selection Criteria section of the RFP.

We offer some possible examples of community participation and public engagement here for illustration purposes only, but note that this is neither an exhaustive nor a prioritized list:

- Community collaborative or community participatory research in topics relevant to social, economic, health or cultural issues
- Involvement or participation of K-12 California schools or community groups in ecological data-gathering, urban gardens and nutrition programs or the like
- Involving the California public in analysis of mass data sets that may reveal patterns or unique insights, or in gathering disbursed publicly-available data that would not otherwise be accessible
- Engaging communities in local problem-solving, urban or community planning, or after-school research-enhanced enrichment opportunities
- Education and outreach activities connecting the California public to museums, archives, observatories, or historical sites with research relevance
- Education and outreach to populations or communities not already benefiting from healthcare delivery or prevention programs in the proposed research area may be considered
- Agricultural extension activities may be considered if they create new education and outreach services to communities as a function of the proposed research
- Activities aimed at engaging new, hard-to-reach, or underserved populations in research-related health education, cooperative extension or other research-informed community benefit.
  (Funding must support new activities or communities relevant to the research, and may not provide core support for existing programs or services.)

Important additional requirements and considerations:

Note on Data Analysis and Integrity: If the public is involved in generating or analyzing research data, the full proposal should explain how the collaboration will ensure the integrity of the data and improve the quality of the research or strengthen the analysis, as appropriate.

Note on Human Participants: Please note that enrollment of human research subjects or the delivery of patient care does not constitute public engagement for the purposes of this opportunity, and clinical trials research may not be proposed. Human research subjects whose participation is primarily (or limited to) providing survey data, biological specimens or other data for the purposes of the scientific analysis do not constitute community collaborators.

Note on Community Advisory Boards: Community advisory boards may enhance research engagement and community benefit, and therefore constitute a component of your proposed public engagement activities. However, the convening of these boards alone, without additional active public or community engagement in the research, or research-related education or outreach activities, is unlikely to provide sufficient evidence of meaningful community engagement for the purposes of this award.