University of California Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)

Program Information Session for 2023 Awards
April 6, 2022
Webinar Agenda

• Goals and Overview of Funding Opportunity
• Scoring and Review Criteria
• Key Deadlines
• LOI Tips and Reminders
• Q & A
UC Research Initiatives
Research Grants Program Office

Programmatic questions should be directed to us at UCRI@ucop.edu

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MRPI Goals

*Innovative, compelling, novel multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that benefits UC and California*

- Advance UC research mission
- Leverage expertise across UC system
- Leading edge in new research directions and emerging fields of study
MRPI Overview

Innovative, compelling, novel multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that benefits UC and California

- 3+ UC campuses
- Diverse faculty/researchers
- Research and training opportunities for students
MRPI Team Structure

Applicant Institution / UC Campus #1
Applicant PI (required)
Co-Is (optional), Trainees*

Collaborating UC Campus #2
Co-PI (required)

Collaborating UC Campus #3
Co-PI (required)

Collaborating UC Campus(es) #4-10†
Co-PIs (optional)

* Each location may have additional Co-Is or Trainees
† Each additional UC campus or eligible site has one and only one Co-PI
MRPI Team Structure

- One Applicant PI at host campus
- One Co-PI at each of the other collaborating campuses
- The Applicant PI and Co-PI team must be fully named at time of LOI submission
- Other team members are Co-Is; Trainees.
Award Type: Planning/Pilot Awards

New collaborations; 1-2 years; $150k/year

Examples include:
- Develop research capacity, data sets, and/or databases
- Training of students, postdocs
- Convening new multicampus workshops
Award Type: Program Awards

_New or existing collaborations; 2-4 years_

Examples include:

- New multicampus collaborations
- Existing multicampus collaborations launching new initiatives, expanding into new research areas, or expanding UC participation
Program Awards - Additional Requirements

Program Awards also require:

- Engagement of undergraduate students
- Public engagement

Examples of public engagement:

- Community participatory research
- Involving the California public in data collection/analysis
- Engaging communities in local problem-solving
MRPI Application Process

1. Letter of Intent
2. LOI Review
3. Advancement to Full Proposal
4. Full Proposal Submission
5. Proposal Review and Prioritization
Letter of Intent (LOI) and Review

Due May 12

- Eligibility and Completeness
- Compliance with program requirements
- Alignment with program goals and funding priorities
MRPI Application Process

1. Letter of Intent
2. LOI Review
3. Advancement to Full Proposal
4. Full Proposal Submission
5. Proposal Review and Prioritization
Full Application Review & Scoring Criteria

Research Excellence and Innovation
• High quality research on compelling topics
• Innovative, multidisciplinary, and feasible

Strength of the Collaboration; Systemwide Impact and Benefit
• Diverse faculty, researchers, and students from at least three UC campuses
• Positions UC for strategic excellence

Importance and Benefit to California

Quality of Graduate Student Training
• Meaningful engagement by graduate students in innovative scholarship
• Supports advancement toward degree
Additional Review & Scoring Criteria
(Program Awards only)

Public Engagement/Community Collaboration
• See RFP for guidelines and examples

Contributions to Undergraduate Research and Curricula
• Transform curriculum or provide research, internship, or fieldwork opportunities
Highly Competitive

- 16 proposals; over 200 LOIs
- ~$16 M in total available funding for all awards
- Budgets should be *judicious and well justified* in relation to the proposed activities
- Adhere to budget guidelines in the RFP and Application Instructions
Key Dates

Letters of Intent (LOI) Due:
Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 12:00 noon PDT

Notification of LOI Decision:
Monday, June 6, 2022 (expected)

Full Proposals Due:
Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 12:00 noon PDT

Award Start Date:
January 1, 2023
LOI Tips

• Consider MRPI goals and intent carefully
• MRPI leadership team (PI and Co-PIs) assembled
  ▫ Co-PI Eligibility Form verifying PI status and participation in one and only one LOI
• Begin the online LOI and proposal submission process early
• Use the LOI Submission Checklist
Accessing SmartSimple
Login to SmartSimple: https://ucop.smartsimple.com/

Returning users login here

First-time users register here
Preparing and Submitting an LOI

1. Click on the “Available Funding Opportunities” tab in the upper right corner.

2. Find the row that corresponds to the award type you’re interested in and click “Apply.”
Preparing and Submitting an LOI

Provide this form to each co-PI
Preparation and Submitting an LOI

1. Click “Enter Project Personnel” to enter Applicant PI and Co-PI info

2. Click “Upload” to upload the CV and Co-PI Eligibility Form for each Co-PI
1. Click the “Home” link in the upper-right hand corner of the screen
   1. *Note: you should by default land on this dashboard when you log into SmartSimple*
2. Click “In Progress Applications” to access your draft LOI.
3. After submission of an LOI or Full Application, the record can be found under “Submitted/Under Review Applications”
I still have questions.....

1. Ask them today in the chat

2. Review the materials in the RFP, FAQs and LOI Instructions

3. Visit our website at:
   www.ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi

4. Contact us as questions arise
Contact Information

For SmartSimple support:

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For programmatic questions:

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