



Request for Applications
Research Council: Interdisciplinary Research Grants

Applications must be routed and approved in NUgrant by 5:00pm on the 2nd Friday in October.

DESCRIPTION: Interdisciplinary Research Grants are designed for projects that encourage and enhance research, creative and scholarly activities with faculty from other “non-alike” UNL Departments/Colleges. The goal is to enhance the competitiveness of applications for external (outside the University of Nebraska system) funding and to foster innovative, collaborative, and timely ideas that inform existing and nascent strategic initiatives specified by the institution and/or funding agencies. Interdisciplinary Research Grants are available to scholars from all disciplines. Preference will be given to those who have not received a Grant-In-Aid, Faculty Seed Grant, or an Interdisciplinary Research Grant from the Research Council during the previous two years.

AWARD AMOUNT: Typically, Interdisciplinary awards do not exceed \$20,000 for one year. However, in an effort to encourage ambitious proposals and truly multi-disciplinary initiatives, the Research Council will accept requests for larger amounts of funding, though awards over \$20,000 are not guaranteed. Available funding varies from year to year depending on the amount of funds available from the University of Nebraska Foundation for the award period.

SCOPE OF THE AWARDS:

- Funding can support a variety of expenses, including but not limited to pilot projects, prototype development, demonstration of educational/public service programs, domestic travel, data collection and analysis, and graduate student/assistant salaries.
- Award recipients are required to submit a proposal for competitive external (outside of the University of Nebraska system) funding within 12 months of the end of the grant period.
- Funding restrictions: Faculty salaries are not allowed. Funds cannot be used for construction, renovation, administrative assistance, international travel, or to purchase equipment. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are not allowed.
- If a Principal Investigator (PI) leaves the University before the start date of their Research Council award, or during the award period, the funds remaining in this account will be returned to the University of Nebraska Foundation. If a PI leaves the University, Research Council funds may not be transferred to another UNL faculty member.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

- Applicants must be full-time (1.0 FTE) UNL tenured, tenure-leading or research faculty with a rank of assistant professor or above, a professor of practice, or senior lecturer on the payroll of UNL. If your UNL position falls into one of these categories then no other information is required from you to apply for Research Council funds.
- If an applicant’s UNL position doesn’t fall into one of the categories listed above, then they’re considered as an “other employee of the University” (e.g., Extension Educator, Lecturer, or Senior Research Associate) and will be eligible to apply for Research Council funds if the following can be documented:
 - Their University appointment includes research responsibilities;

- They are eligible to be a Principal Investigator on a federally funded project in their role as a University employee;
 - They have a multi-year appointment with the University such that they will have an appointment during the period when the proposed project will be conducted, with the reasonable expectation of having this appointment when they apply for and receive federal funding;
 - There is evidence that they have a long-term commitment to the University;
 - Their supervising administrator writes a letter supporting their eligibility for Research Council funds.
- Faculty with part-time appointments, visiting and adjunct appointees are not eligible to apply for these funds.
 - A faculty member may submit only one application as Principal Investigator per funding cycle but is not limited as a Co-Investigator or team member on other projects.
 - UNL faculty can receive **only one ORED internal award** (Arts & Humanities Research Enhancement Program, Layman, or Research Council) as a PI in any one fiscal year. If multiple awards are offered in the same fiscal year, the PI must decide which to accept. The PI may not receive more than two ORED internal awards in any four-year fiscal period.

REVIEW AND AWARD PROCESS:

- Applications are reviewed by the Research Council. The Research Council makes funding recommendations to ORED, which will make the final selection.
- The quality of the pool of proposals from year to year will vary. The scoring system will vary from year to year, so the overall scores from a given year should not be compared across years. The number of applications in a category will vary from year to year and thus change the context of the applicant pool and the percentage that can be funded. Resubmissions are possible if you meet the eligibility requirements.
- Announcement of awards will be made approximately December 15-20 following the submission deadline.
- The award period is the calendar year (January 1 to December 31) starting after the announcement has been made.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS:

- Applicants should identify external (outside of the University of Nebraska system) sources of funding and specify a timeline for proposal submission that will be pursued as a result of this internal funding.
- Recipients are expected to participate in at least one grant-writing seminar sponsored by the Office of Research and Economic Development during the award period if they have not already done so.
- Recipients are expected to actively pursue external (outside of the University of Nebraska system) funding sources (grants and/or fellowships) and are required to submit a proposal for external funding within 24 months of receipt of award (12 months after it ends). Failure to do so may disqualify applicants from future competitions.
- A one-page final report is required, due to the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) no later than 90 days after the conclusion of funding.
- Recipients are expected to serve as reviewers on at least two ORED ad hoc review panels over a four-year period. Failure to do so may disqualify applicants from future competitions.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA:

Proposals must address these criteria (100 point scale):

- Scientific or scholarly merit and relevance (40 points)
- Plan for generating external funding (30 points)
- Qualifications and duties of project personnel (15 points)
- Budget and facilities (15 points)

In addition to these general criteria, Interdisciplinary Research proposals will be evaluated based on quality and the extent to which the project truly employs interdisciplinary and collaborative strategies. Principal Investigators should clearly articulate in the application what each person is doing to show their expertise in the field and convince reviewers that each person brings a different level of expertise to the project.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

Only electronic submissions via NUgrant will be accepted (<https://nugrant.unl.edu>).

Information required as part of the electronic NUgrant application:

1. **250-word abstract** (using lay terms accessible to a broad audience)
2. **5-page proposal** plus a 1-page bibliography (max.). The proposal must include sufficient detail to convince reviewers of the project's scientific or scholarly merit and relevance, and **written in lay language understandable to non-specialists**. Please make the proposal and bibliography single-spaced, using an 11-point font and one-inch margins. The proposal should include information to demonstrate to reviewers its merit and potential for external funding, including the following elements:

a. Introduction

- Pose a clear research question or topic that specifies the purpose of the project.
- Situate the project in existing literature, providing background/rationale that addresses the significance of the project to the applicant's field.
- List the project's short-term objectives and describe how the project fits into the applicant's long-term plan for scholarship.
- Explain how the proposed project fits with the applicant's previous/other research.

b. Proposed plan

- Describe data/information sources, method of analysis, and expectations regarding outcomes.
- Identify specific research/scholarly activities to be conducted with Interdisciplinary funds. The scope of the research/scholarly activities must align with a one-year funding period and \$20,000 budget. Describe how these activities will enhance competitiveness for subsequent external (outside the University of Nebraska system) funding.
- Describe what the seed grant will accomplish that cannot be achieved through other means.

c. Timeline for external funding proposal submission (≤ 24 months)

- Identify a specific external (outside of the University of Nebraska system) funding opportunity (program and funding agency), submission deadlines, and submission timeline.

- Articulate the fit of the proposed project, explaining how the project aligns with the external funding opportunity.

d. If you received a start-up package in the last three years, please justify the need for Interdisciplinary funds relative to the availability of funding from your start-up.

- 3. List of Key Personnel:** Attach a 2-page biographical sketch/vitae summary for each faculty member involved in the project (including publications for the last 5 years).
 - 4. Current & Pending Support:** List all funded and pending internal and external grants for all faculty members involved in the project, including title, award amount, funding period, and funding agency. Summarize outcomes of previous funding from the Office of Research and Economic Development (last five years, one page max.), including previous funding from the Research Council (Interdisciplinary Grants, Seed Grants, Grants-In-Aid). Include reviews from external funding applications where pertinent.
 - 5. Project Budget:** 1-page budget and 1-page detailed justification. Any travel by non-UNL faculty/staff ***must*** be clearly justified.
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If you have questions about the submission process, please contact Mari Greer in the Office of Research and Economic Development at (402) 472-2851 or by e-mail at mgreer1@unl.edu.