PROVOST’S FUND FOR RESEARCH
Fiscal Year 2020

Instructions

Please read this document carefully before completing the application.

Applications are due on or before 5PM on
Friday, Nov. 15, 2019

ELIGIBILITY

Only full-time faculty members of Rutgers University-Camden may apply. For the Multidisciplinary Grants Program, the lead PI must be tenured or tenure-track. The following are not eligible to apply: coadjutant appointees, teaching and research assistants, postdocs, and visiting faculty members.

OVERVIEW

The Provost’s Fund for Research was established to advance Rutgers-Camden’s research enterprise and increase the university's research competitiveness among its peers. The Multidisciplinary and Catalyst Grants Programs will provide seed funding to support Rutgers University-Camden faculty in pursuing new and innovative research endeavors leading to outside funding. Applicants may submit maximum requests of $15,000 to the Multidisciplinary Grants Program and $5,000 to the Catalyst Grants Program. However, please be aware that the awarded amount may be less. Applications requesting more than the maximum allowable amount, without selecting one of the additional designations, will not be reviewed.

Applicants may also choose to designate their projects as either Community-Engaged Research or Student-Engaged Research and thereby to request funds exceeding the normal limits to support their project. Previous Provost’s Fund for Research awardees may also apply for a limited amount of continuation funding to complete their projects.

Multidisciplinary Grants Program

Many of the problems we confront today can only be solved through the collective contribution of researchers from a variety of disciplines. The multidisciplinary grants program provides awards to teams comprised of faculty from at least two different Rutgers–Camden departments or schools. The expectation is that these awards will spark new, synergistic interactions between investigators across the campus, leading to work of the highest quality and impact. These awards are not intended to support already-established projects or minimal extensions of ongoing research or professional programs.
• Maximum amount per award: $15,000
• Duration of award: 1 to 2 years, to begin Jan. 1, 2020
• Eligibility: PIs and Co-PIs must be full-time faculty members of Rutgers–Camden. PIs must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Co-PIs may be non-tenure-track faculty members.
• Evaluation criteria: Proposals will be reviewed and scored on 1) Intellectual merit; 2) Collaborative nature; 3) Broader impact; 4) Potential for extramural funding; 5) Student involvement (graduate and undergraduate). Please be sure to include sections with these headings within the proposal. Be specific when referring to potential for extramural funding.
• Project description page limit: 4 pages (not including references, budget, or CVs)
• Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2019
• Deliverables: An annual project report describing project goals, objectives, methodologies, and outcomes, with a particular emphasis on the benefit and of the multidisciplinary collaboration on the project. The report must also include a plan for continuing the project beyond the grant period and for securing extramural funding. Award recipients will be invited and encouraged to present their project at a campus faculty research event.

Catalyst Grants Program
The program is designed for individual investigators who are beginning new scholarly, research, or creative initiatives. These include projects from early career faculty (i.e. new investigators) who have not previously received funding for the work outlined in their proposal. If the proposal is from a more senior (tenured) faculty, the work outlined in the proposal must include a compelling justification for why it is considered a “new initiative” for this investigator. Moreover, the senior faculty applicant should be able to show clearly that the proposed work is not just an extension of something they have already done and that they have not received funding for work similar to that outlined in the proposal over their career. These grants are not intended to be used as bridge funds or to fund ongoing scholarly or research initiatives.

• Maximum amount per award: $5,000
• Duration of award: 1 year, to begin Jan. 1, 2020
• Eligibility: PI must be a full-time faculty member of Rutgers–Camden. While these awards are geared primarily toward tenured and tenure-track faculty, a limited number of awards may be presented to non-tenure-track faculty members.
• Evaluation criteria: Proposals will be reviewed and scored on 1) Intellectual merit; 2) Broader impact; 3) Potential for extramural funding; 4) Student involvement (graduate and undergraduate). Please be sure to include sections with these headings within the proposal. Be specific when referring to potential for extramural funding.
• Project description page limit: 3 pages (not including references, budget, or CV)
• Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2019
• Deliverables: An end of year project report describing project goals, objectives, methodologies, and outcomes. The report must also include a plan for continuing the project beyond the grant period and for securing extramural funding. Award recipients will be invited and encouraged to present their project at a campus faculty research event.
Designation of Community-Engaged Research
The inclusion of this designation is meant to support the growth of community-engaged research. There are varying degrees of community engagement in research, with the most intense being Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). Although CBPR projects would be welcomed, a project need not be CBPR to request the Community-Engaged Designation. View a discussion of Community-Engaged Research from the health perspective.

- Principal investigators may request $5,000 additional funding for Multidisciplinary grants ($20,000 in total) and $2,500 additional funding for Catalyst grants ($7,500 in total).
- To be considered, PIs must provide supporting evidence in the project narrative for why their project should be considered community-engaged.
- Additional evidence that could strengthen the proposal includes (but is not limited to) letters of support from a community group or organization and/or a record of previous community-engaged research.

Designation of Student-Engaged Research
Every project seeking funding through the Provost’s Fund for Research will have a component of their evaluation tied to student involvement in the project. However, this designation is being made available to those principal investigators that make an extra attempt to engage students (graduate or undergraduate) as part of their research team.

- Principal investigators may request $5,000 additional funding for Multidisciplinary grants ($20,000 in total) and $2,500 additional funding for Catalyst grants ($7,500 in total).
- In order to be considered, principal investigators must include in their project narrative a compelling case for why the project should be considered student-engaged.
- Student researchers should also appear in the budget.

Continuation Grant
There is an understanding that some projects funded in the previous years of the Provost’s Fund for Research may require more time and money to reach their objectives. As such, previous recipients will be eligible to apply for a continuation grant to support their efforts.

- Principal investigators may request up to $10,000 for Multidisciplinary grants and up to $5,000 for Catalyst grants.
- Principal investigators must outline the progress of their project and why additional funds are being requested.
- Principal Investigators may only apply for one round of continuation funding. Previous recipients of continuation awards are not eligible to receive additional continuation funding.

Please note the following:

1. Provost’s Fund for Research grants may NOT be used to support research leading to an academic degree for the grant recipient from Rutgers or any other university.
2. A faculty member may submit a proposal as principal investigator (PI) to ONE, either Multidisciplinary, Catalyst program, or Continuation in any funding cycle.

3. Applicants may apply for only ONE designation, either Community-Engaged or Student-Engaged Research, not both. Those investigators applying for Continuation Grants are not eligible to request a designation.

4. Applicants who were funded in the last cycle must wait one cycle before reapplying for the same program. However, applicants do not have to wait to submit a proposal to a different program (i.e. a faculty member who was awarded a catalyst last cycle may apply for a multidisciplinary grant this cycle).

5. Those applicants who were NOT funded in the last cycle are encouraged to reapply.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT

As the Provost’s Fund for Research is limited, faculty members are encouraged to seek support from outside the University. Help with acquiring external funding can be found at:
- https://ored.rutgers.edu/content/resources-faculty-staff.
- Rutgers–Camden Research Coordinator Jeannie Garmon (garmonje@camden.rutgers.edu)

APPLYING TO THE PROVOST’S FUND FOR RESEARCH

- All faculty interested in applying must complete the “Fiscal Year 2020 Provost’s Fund for Research Application Form.” Faculty members seeking general guidance on preparing a proposal should contact the Research Coordinator, Jeannie Garmon, at garmonje@camden.rutgers.edu.
- Use font size of 11 or greater.
- Supply only the information requested.
- Describe how each budgetary item is necessary for the successful completion of the project. Note: Funds can NOT be used for personal computers, smartphones, tablets, other types of office equipment and supplies, computer time, travel to meetings of learned or professional societies (except for travel to conferences to present the results of research funded by this grant), professional membership dues, purchase of books or journals for a personal library, subventions for the publication of books, manuscripts, or articles, applicant’s salary (including summer) or salary increments.
- All budgetary expenditures must comply with Rutgers University policies and procedures.
- Requests to purchase equipment must be accompanied by a letter from a Chairperson or Director stating that the equipment is not already available for use.
- When describing your project, put yourself in the position of the reviewer who is familiar with your field in general, but does not know the specifics. Explicitly state the problem, why the problem is important, and how the problem is to be solved. Please make clear reference to the potential and plans for attaining extramural funding, including identification of possible
programs or organizations. Do not include copies of publications or photocopies of grant applications you have submitted to federal or other funding agencies.

- Attach the curriculum vitae (two pages maximum) of the PI and co-PIs (if applicable).
- Persons working in music and the visual arts may submit, in support of their application, tapes, photographs or other appropriate representations of their work. Upon request, these items will be returned via campus mail after the review panel has completed its work.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please submit one Word or pdf file of your complete application package by email to the Research Coordinator, Jeannie Garmon, at garmonje@camden.rutgers.edu on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2019. Late applications will not be accepted.

AWARDS

Award notifications, conditional upon the funding availability, will be sent via email by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Project activities will commence on Jan. 1, 2020. Please note that failure to receive a grant will in no way prejudice future applications under this program. The grant duration is 1 year for the Catalyst program and 1-2 years from the Multidisciplinary program; continuation grants will be 1 year in duration. We will be unable to provide specific individual feedback on grant proposals that are either not funded or funded at an amount lower than requested.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions concerning the Provost’s Fund for Research to the Research Coordinator, Jeannie Garmon, at garmonje@camden.rutgers.edu or the Associate Provost for Research, Professor Benedetto Piccoli, at piccoli@camden.rutgers.edu.