Institute of Advanced Research
The University for Innovation

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Research and Development Seed Grants

Introduction

Research and Development Seed Grants are intended to support early career faculty to help them establish themselves at IAR and for them develop competitive research proposals. Early career faculty and research staff may seek these grants to undertake preliminary work towards developing a grant application and to develop collaboration for joint grant proposals in research and development priority areas of the University It is expected that a competitive proposal for a project will be submitted to an external funding agency within a year of the completion of the Research and Development Seed Grant period.

Research and Development Seed Grant proposals should briefly describe the program and agency to which a future proposal will be submitted, and should demonstrate how the Research Seed Grant will result in a full competitive grant proposal. The proposal should also explain how it aligns with the University's research and development priorities, what impact the work will have in terms application, include a budget for the Seed Grant project and a timeline for grant submission to an external funding agency.

Preference will be given to proposal which have an interdisciplinary focus and involve at least one more faculty member from a related discipline.

Who can apply?

Faculty members who have joined IAR with the last two years are eligible to apply. Visiting faculty, emeritus faculty, adjunct faculty, Research Assistants and postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects as Principal Investigator (PI), but may be included on the research team.

Faculty members who are in the first year of appointment, must have received a positive performance report six months after their appointment from their HoD in order to apply. Applicants may consult with the Dean (Research and Innovation) in advance with regard to alignment of their proposed project with the University's research and development priorities.

Categories of Awards

Category 1 - Awards can be up to Rs 1,00,000 for proposals with one or more faculty in areas where the proposed work contributes to the University's research and development outcomes. These may be discipline based, but must lead to multi-disciplinary research and development programs in future years. Awards are for one year and no extensions may be granted.

Category 2 - Awards can be up to Rs 2,00,000 for a group of two or more faculty from distinctly different disciplines who are initiating a new collaboration with the goal to establish an ongoing, long-term connection across disciplines that is expected to lead to substantial external research funding.

Category 3 – Awards can be up to Rs 5,00,000 for multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research and development projects led by two or more faculty provided the proposed projects are already linked to an external funding organization. For example, the external organization agrees to make funding available subject to preliminary work being undertaken by the faculty such as feasibility, validation or proof of concept).

Criteria for Selection

Proposals should be submitted to the Dean (Research and Innovation), who will publish the timelines for the applications and award of grants. The overall merit of the proposals will be considered and evaluated by a committee of faculty representing a range of disciplines, chaired by the Dean (Research and Innovation) and will make their recommendations to the President. The final selection will be made based on the following criteria:

- intrinsic merit of the work and potential impact of the research on the academic field and relevance to practice

- potential for the award to provide a basis for further research funding from external funding agencies including industries and businesses

- PI and collaborators have the requisite expertise as reflected by their record of achievement to deliver the objectives of the project.

- Proposed budget is realistic, and

- likelihood that the proposed work will be completed during the award period

    Additional Criteria for Category 2

- Potential for new collaboration to establish an ongoing, long-term connection across disciplines that is expected to lead to substantial external research and development funding.

    Additional Criteria for Category 3

- Evidence of industry/business support for on-going commitment to the area of activity and potential funding.

Reporting requirements

Within 30 days of the end of the approved award period, the recipient must submit to the Dean (Research and Innovation) a final report. The report should outline the work that was accomplished and describe the proposal(s) prepared/submitted to external funding agencies as a result of this award. The report should also describe any significant variations from or extensions to the project described in the original proposal.

Award Conditions

Funds will become available to faculty in August, 2021. The funds would be available for use until the end of July, 2022, unless an extension was requested and approved. All expenditure must be completed by that date. Funds not expended by the completion date will be returned to the pool of funds from which Seed Grants are awarded. Faculty selected for a Seed award will be required to

- Submit a final report within one month of funding end date.
- Funding should not be re-appropriated without prior approval
- Research outcomes should not be published without clearance by the Dean (Research and Innovation) to ensure that any Intellectual Property is captured.
- All data and evidence collected during the research should be deposited with the Research Office for audit.

President
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