The University of Cincinnati Office of Research
Collaborative Research Projects: Pilots Grant Program

Up to six $25,000 General Pilot Grants awarded
Up to two $25,000 Space-specific Pilot Grants awarded
Up to three $25,000 International Collaboration-specific Pilot Grants awarded

Consistent with Office of Research goals to spur interdisciplinary[1] research and establish new partnerships within and beyond the institution, the pilot program is designed to seed promising, collaborative research endeavors to elevate teams' competitiveness for external funding. The expected outcomes for this program: 1) Support interdisciplinary teams for achievement of greater success, breakthrough ideas, and prominence; 2) Advance high-potential, team research and creative activities in emergent areas; and 3) Increase teams' competitiveness and capacity for major extramural awards and funding.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Up to fifteen finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and share a 15-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

As part of the process, applicants are asked to consider, articulate, and ultimately measure how the project positively impacts society. As high-level frames of reference, the Office of Research refers applicants to two impact frameworks:

1. The Arts & Social Impact Explorer
2. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

Key Dates
FOA Release: Wednesday, September 4, 2024
LOI Due: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST
Finalist Notification: Week of Monday, December 9, 2024 *(anticipated)*
Finalist Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 by 5:00 pm EST (finalists only)
Finalist Presentations: Week of February 3, 2025 *(anticipated)*
Grantees Announced: Week of March 10, 2025 *(anticipated)*
Grant Project Period: May 2025 – May 2027

Eligibility & expectations
- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment;

- Faculty holding a primary appointment in one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA and Shriners) are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be the primary applicant;
- External collaborators are eligible to contribute effort to a team, but may not be primary applicant;
- So to foster new talent, ideas, and intellectual diversity, faculty who have NOT received Office of Research grant funding in the last five years (2018-2023) from the UC Office of Research (except the URC Scholar program) will be given preferential consideration.
- Eligible faculty with *external* funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded.

Tracks
Track 1: General Pilot Project (up to six awards) - these can be any collaborative research projects across multiple disciplines at UC
Track 2: Space Research Pilot Project (up to two awards) - collaborative research projects aligned with advancing UC's research activities in space-related research
Track 3: International Collaborative Research Pilot Project (up to three awards) - collaborative research projects between UC faculty and international research partners

Pilot applicants for all tracks should follow all the instructions noted below.

LOI: Information required
All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, college, department/unit, date of hire/appointment at UC, and proposal title within the Wizehive portal prior to uploading the required pdf file. **Applicants must select the appropriate track when registering in Wizehive**. Also, Applicants are required to select the area designation for review/award based on their proposed activities, which can differ from their department/unit home.

The LOI should contain the following information in the order listed below and will be submitted as a single PDF file. Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included. Your submission must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout.

1. Research Interest and Impact (2 pages maximum)
   - Title of Research Project
   - Track Selected
   - Name, Title, College, and Department of primary applicant
   - Names, Titles, College, & Department of internal/affiliate collaborators (Tracks 1 and 2 only)
   - Names, Titles, and Organization names of external collaborators (Required for Track 3/Optional for Tracks 1 and 2)

- Problem Statement (300 word max) *What problem do you want to solve & why?*
- Approach (300 word max) *How are you going to solve this problem?*
- Impact (300 word max) *What is the anticipated outcome and who will be ultimately impacted?*
- **Track 2 only** – (200 word max) *How does this project advance research in space-related areas?*
- **Track 3 only** – (200 word max) *What is the rationale for including this international partner?*

2. Bibliography (1-page max – any standard format is acceptable)
3. Biographical Sketch/CV using the TEMPLATE (3 page maximum)

LOI: Submission
LOIs will be submitted online via *Wizehive*, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the platform is ready to accept LOIs, the live link to apply will be posted at https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview.

LOI: Review Criteria
- Project Merit
- Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed
- Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach
- Suitability of the team to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

Finalist Selection & Review Process
Each Pilot LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by Office of Research Program staff. No more than twenty finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

Finalists will be selected based on the quality, novelty, team composition and impact of the proposed research, scholarship and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge and broadly impact society. Neither comments nor feedback on LOIs will be provided to applicants, however comments & feedback on full proposals will be made available to finalists.

Note: Each UC faculty member on each of the teams selected for pilot funding will be required to serve on the review panel for the Pilot program for the two succeeding years of the program.

QUESTIONS? Email research@uc.edu