The University of Cincinnati Office of Research
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
Collaborative Research Advancement Program: Pilot Grants

Up to eight $25,000 General Pilot Grants awarded
Up to two $25,000 Space-specific Pilot Grants awarded
Up to two $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, this program is designed to seed collaborative research endeavors to help develop research to the point where external funding can be obtained. The expected outcomes for this program: 1) Support interdisciplinary teams for achievement of greater success 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 follows a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a 2-page letter of interest (LOI). Up to twenty finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and present at a pitch event that will be held between the hours of 9am-5pm the week of January 29, 2024 *(anticipated).*

As part of the FOA, 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, August 23, 2023
LOI Due: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 by 5:00 pm EST
Finalist Notification: December 8, 2023 *(anticipated)*
Final Proposal Deadline: January 17, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST (finalists only)
Finalist Presentations: Week of January 29, 2024 *(anticipated)*
Grantees Announced: Week of March 4, 2024 *(anticipated)*
Grant Project Period: May 2024 – May 2026

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[1] Teams that have faculty from more than two colleges will be more competitive than those with only two colleges represented. Applicants who seek assistance in developing a team contact research@uc.edu.

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 and assure diversity, equity, and inclusion and to encourage new and early-career applicants, faculty who have received Office of Research funding in the last five years (2017-2022) from the AHSS, Pilot, Pivot, Scholars, Strategic, Urban Futures Pathway and/or the Digital Futures program are **not** eligible to serve as **primary** applicant.[2]
- 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 eight awards)
Track 2: Space Research Pilot Project (up to two awards)
Track 3: International Collaborative Research Pilot Project (up to two awards)
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?*

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[2] *Previously funded faculty are encouraged to serve as a collaborator to a primary applicant - particularly those led by an eligible, early career or new faculty member, an eligible female member of the faculty, and/or an eligible, URM member of the UC faculty.*

- **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. 3-page biosketch/CV (template available on the website)

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 fifteen (15) 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