Zoom participants: Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

Please note that this session is being recorded
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- We provide proposal development assistance across the spectrum*
- Meet goals in the UI strategic plan – grow research and creative efforts across all disciplines
- Reach out to request service – uidaho.edu/orfd

*Not including budget preparation

All services are **optional** and are granted on a **first come, first served** basis
FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINARS
Let Us Be Your Guide Through the Proposal Development Process

JOIN US IN IRIC 305
12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. PT

Can’t join us in person? Then join us live via Zoom: uidaho.zoom.us/j/798224314. Each seminar will be recorded and be available on our website.

University of Idaho
Office of Research and Faculty Development
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WE GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS

Office of Research and Faculty Development

Phone: (208) 885-1144
Email: ored-rfteam@uidaho.edu
Website: uideaho.edu/orfd
HELP US IMPROVE OUR SEMINARS

After the Q&A session: brief 3 question sli.do poll

- On a scale from 1-5, how helpful was this seminar?
- What did you like most about this seminar?
- How can we improve this seminar?

www.slido.com or use the sli.do app (Use code #FSS)
OBJECTIVES

IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL DISCUSS:

1. Overview of the NSF MRI Program
2. Elements of the MRI application and project description
3. Strategies and tips to align project to the MRI priorities and requirements
4. Limited submission process & timeline
5. Q&A Session with Dr. Randy Phelps, Staff Associate in the NSF Office of International & Integrative Activities (from 1-1:30 p.m.)
MRI PROGRAM - SYNOPSIS

Goal is to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training.

Supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs.

Expected to enhance research training of students who will become the next generation of instrument users, designers and builders.
MRI PROGRAM - SYNOPSIS

MRI Program provides support to:

- Acquire critical research instrumentation without which advances in fundamental science and engineering research may not otherwise occur.

- Develop next-generation research instruments that open new opportunities to advance the frontiers in science and engineering research.
“NSF strongly values MRI proposals that seek to develop next-generation research instruments that open new frontiers of research. As a result the MRI program seeks to support development proposals, with up to a third of awards per competition for development proposals (depending on the numbers and quality of proposals).”
MRI PROGRAM BASICS

Awards:
- Track 1: Instrument requests between $100,000 to less than $1 million
- Track 2: Requests between $1M up to and including $4M

Duration: up to 3 years for acquisition proposals; up to 5 years for development proposals.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: 3 total
- 2 proposals allowed for Track 1; one allowed for Track 2
- Proposals within the two tracks may be either for acquisition or development
- RFD uses internal review process to determine which proposal will be submitted

Submission Window: January 1 – January 19, annually
MRI PROGRAM BASICS

Know what the program does not fund:

- General-purpose equipment normally be found in a laboratory or easily procured
- Research, education, or outreach activities enabled by the requested instrumentation
- Requests for multiple independent instruments to outfit a general-purpose laboratory or research environment.
- Instrumentation used primarily for STEM education courses and outreach
- Research outside of NSF-supported fields of science and engineering

Matching requirement: 30% cost share on total project costs
NSF MRI PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Required sections:
- Coversheet
- Project Summary
- Table of Contents
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketches
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources
- Special Information & Supplementary Documentation
- Single Copy Documents – Collaborators and Other Affiliations

Encouraged sections:
- Single-Copy Document – Suggested Reviewers
NSF MRI PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Project Description (15 pages max.):

- Must include subsections (A) - (E):
  - A1. Information about the Proposal
  - A2. Justification for submission as a Development proposal (development only)
  - B. Research Activities to be Enabled (includes “Results from Prior Support”)
  - C. Description of Research Instrumentation and Needs
  - D. Broader Impacts (including Impact on Research and Training Infrastructure)
  - E. Management Plan

- Note: A separate section labeled "Intellectual Merit" is not required for proposals submitted to this solicitation. However, PI must still address the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the proposed effort as part of the project description.
TIPS FOR A COMPETITIVE MRI PROPOSAL

1) Get the Basics Right

- Read the Program Solicitation and MRI FAQs
  - Multi-user, shared instrumentation
  - Research and research training
  - Research across disciplinary boundaries
- Know what the program will and will not fund
- 30% cost sharing requirement; voluntary cost share is not allowed
- There is a detailed checklist in the solicitation – use it!
TIPS FOR A COMPETITIVE MRI PROPOSAL

2) Tell a story that resonates
   - Emphasize the science, rather than the instrument
     - The science should drive the request for the instrument
     - Describe compelling research and research training to be undertaken with the instrument that builds research capacity and impact
     - Consider organizing users into research themes or by types of use

3) Present a compelling case
   - Assemble a strong team of major users (~10-12 major users)
   - Present preliminary data – e.g., data obtained from similar equipment to show how MRI will support leading-edge research
4) Research training is a critical component of an MRI proposal

- MRI seeks to create the next generation of instrument users, designers and builders
- Must be concrete, feasible, and evaluated
- Needs to broaden participation of individuals who are typically underrepresented in STEM
- All proposals will include undergraduate training – need to present a research training plan that makes UI stand out
  - E.g., get students involved in design, selection, or demonstration of instrument during the proposal stage
5) Other Important Sections

- Management Plan
  - Describes how and by whom the instrument will be used
  - Demonstrates appropriate leadership, sufficient commitment, and technical expertise for effective scheduling and usage of the instrument

- Data Management Plan
  - Plan to disseminate and share results of instrument-generated data
  - Consider how to enable metadata and manage storage of data from instrument

- Institutional Letter of Commitment – Needs to demonstrate adequate commitment to ensure successful operations and maintenance
GET TO KNOW NSF

Know the NSF PAPPG

Review NSF Strategic Plan

Get copies of funded MRI proposals (NSF Awards Advanced Search)

Talk to successful PIs

Contact Program Officers in Divisions where you fit

Serve as a review panelist
MRI - LIMITED SUBMISSION PROCESS

USING INFOREADY REVIEW:

Notice of Intent to Apply due to RFD
Sept. 28, 2020

Concept Papers due to RFD
Oct. 19, 2020

Internal Awardee Notification
Nov. 6, 2020

Full Application due to NSF
Jan. 1-19, 2021

via UI’s InfoReady Review System

VERAS & Research.gov

*All deadlines are at 5:00 pm Pacific Time.*
TAKEAWAYS

Get the basics right – MRI Program is highly organized, honed, and transparent program.

Start MRI planning and proposal development prior to LS process
- Assemble a strong team centered around research that will benefit from multi-user, shared instrumentation
- Team composition may inform cost sharing and institutional commitment

RFD can assist you!
- Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
- Url: https://www.uidaho.edu/research/about/orfd
THANK YOU!

Questions?

Q & A with Dr. Randy Phelps, Staff Associate, NSF Office of International and Integrative Activities (OIIA) and Program Coordinator for Foundation-wide MRI and STC Programs.

Email: rphelps@nsf.gov
THANK YOU FOR COMING!

QUESTIONS?

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please take a brief 3-question sli.do poll

www.slido.com or use the sli.do app

Use code #FSS