The University Grants Academy (UGA)

Fall 2017

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Background and context

• From Provost’s funds allocated for stimulating and supporting RSCA

• SJSU UGA
  • An intensive year-long experience for a select group of faculty designed to support them through the process of writing a substantial external grant

• Based on the CASA Grants Academy and lessons learned in the UGA AY 15-16, 16-17

For detailed information and how to apply, please visit the University Grants Academy (UGA) website.
Grants Academy Elements

- 0.2 release time for one semester and the resources covering the supporting tools
- Workshops by campus experts on various aspects of proposal development in fall 2017;
- A spring program providing technical support, resources and mentoring from campus experts and successful SJSU grant writers in spring 2018;
- Proposal reviews by senior scholars in the field;
- $500 in O&E funds if proposal submitted by the first open submission window after UGA completion; and
- Program structure to support the completion and submission of an external grant proposal.
  - Assignments
  - Peer check-in
  - Individualized coaching
Fall Workshops

- A series of progressive workshops on grant writing
- Faculty can attend one or all in the series
- Open to the entire campus community
- Each workshop includes one hour of information with Q&A and a second hour of workshop during which participants will develop a concrete product that moves their grant writing forward
- SJSU faculty mentors and experts from the Office of Research, the Research Foundation, and University Advancement will be present to provide consultation and guidance
- Critical feedback on workshop products provided upon participant request
Fall Workshops Dates and Times

- Session 1: Moving from Idea to Proposal – The Proposal Summary
  *Wednesday, September 13, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Clark Hall 118*

- Session 2: Drafting a Budget for a Grant Proposal
  *Monday, October 2, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. MLK 225*

- Session 3: Drafting the Narrative Component of your Grant Proposal
  *Thursday, October 26, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Engineering 285*

- Session 4: Finding External Funding for your Research and Scholarship
  *Wednesday, November 8, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Clark Hall 118*
Consulting Sessions

• Held in Spring
• Just for Academy participants
• Participant review information/instruction in advance
• Canvas as communication tool
• Assignments, discussion, accountability
• Consultation with campus experts and mentors
But does it work?

• 80% of participants in both years completed a full grant proposal for a specified funder by the end of the Spring semester

• As of July 31 2017:
  • 75% of the UGA 15-16 participants formally submitted proposals;
  • 27% (6 of 22) of the UGA 16-17 participants have formally submitted proposals and 16 have pending submission windows.
But does it work?

Participants report significantly improving their ability to complete each step of grant-writing after participating in the UGA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability to:</th>
<th>Average before</th>
<th>Average after</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locate a funder</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft budget &amp; justification</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write strong proposal narrative</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit through auxiliary</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact program officer</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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Feedback from Participants

- A tremendous opportunity
- Such a positive experience
- Would recommend it without hesitation
- A great opportunity
- Highly recommend participating
- Really helpful
- A powerful experience
- An absolutely necessary opportunity
- A very worthwhile program
- Extremely supportive and highly informative in so many ways!
- An amazing experience
- I have learned a lot
- Really appreciate the UGA
  fantastic!

- “One of the best things that SJSU has done for faculty development.”
- “Extremely helpful and valuable opportunity.”
- “Really great support and lots of knowledge gained.”
- “An outstanding, rare opportunity to get real help with writing grants.”
- “…Really the template for how one would hope this sort of thing would be done.”
But does it work?

“What is particularly useful is that it holds you accountable to the milestone assignments required to submit a proposal.”

“The deadlines and writing time were sometimes inconvenient in light of other demands of the semester, but helped me keep this project as a priority.”
Requirements

• Attendance at or viewing of each of the fall grant development workshops offered in fall 2017;
• Permission from chair or director for 0.2 assigned time during spring 2018 (no overload);
• Completion and submission of a grant proposal within the next academic term;
• Engaged participation in UGA consulting sessions and related activities throughout the process with SJSU mentors, advisors, and Grants Academy peers.

Applications are due to the Office of Research no later than November 6th at 5:00p.m.
Eligibility

• Tenure/tenure track (T/TT) faculty who have not yet received major external grants are eligible to apply.

• Faculty members developing proposals to fund their RSCA will have priority, but those seeking other types of extramural grants (e.g., training grants or program or curriculum development) could be considered if space permits.

• Applicants will not be eligible for further internal RSCA opportunities from Central and College initiatives until their grant proposals are submitted or for 3 years, whichever is first.
Application Process

Proposals must contain the following:

- The UGA application form;
- A current CV;
- A proposal budget and budget justification; and
- A draft proposal narrative containing at minimum:
  - 5-6 pages outlining the scope and methodology of the project to be funded (what you propose to do and how it will be implemented; aka the Research Strategy/Project Description); and
  - 1-2 pages introducing the problem or issue being targeted and why the problem is important.

For information on how to apply for UGA, please visit the University Grants Academy (UGA) website.
Criteria

• Completeness of application;

• Strength of application elements and likelihood of potential funding;

• Evidence of faculty member’s ability to complete a proposal within the UGA timeframe;

• Fit of faculty interests and needs with the goals of the UGA.
Questions?

Any comments/questions please contact us at officeofresearch@sjsu.edu.