Multidisciplinary Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Stimulus Grant

Sparking Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Issue Date: December 18, 2019

This Multidisciplinary Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) Stimulus Grant is available from the Division of Research & Innovation. The goal is to provide an opportunity for faculty to expand their established RSCA in new directions through multidisciplinary collaboration and to sustain these activities in the future through extramural funding. The award will be in the form of funds to support the cost of personnel, supplies, and project-related travel.

Eligibility Requirements

All SJSU tenured/tenure-track faculty, with an established RSCA project that has been active for at least one year.

The proposed work will be expected to (1) grow the PI’s existing RSCA in a new direction with the benefit of multi-disciplinary collaboration in disciplines other than the PI’s; (2) target off-campus practical application with specific commercial, social, and/or environmental outcomes; and (3) generate data or creative works that feed into a planned extramural grant proposal that will be submitted to an identified funding agency by the end of the project period.

Multi-disciplinary collaborations can take place with faculty internal or external to SJSU. The primary consideration is to pick a collaboration that is most likely to make the planned extramural grant proposal as competitive as possible.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must contain a completed Application Form which includes the Budget Detail Form with a budget justification, Proposal Narrative, and one Supporting Narrative for each collaborating PI (co-PI) – see below for details.

Proposal Budget Justification

Applications are required to include a detailed project budget that will be filled out in the Application Form and will include a budget justification narrative. The budget should include some or all the following expense categories:
1. Project Supplies (equipment not permissible)
2. Project Personnel* (Student Assistants, Project Technicians, and/or Postdocs). Faculty salary award is not permissible.
3. Travel – only qualified project-related travel permitted.
Award funds **may not** be used for faculty salary; to purchase equipment, gifts or gift cards; or to prepare the follow-on extramural funding proposal required under this grant.

*Project personnel payments considered salary and taxed by the IRS and the state. Tax rates vary.*

**Proposal Narrative**

The proposal narrative (not to exceed three pages) should be written in a style that is easily accessible to a reviewer from outside the author’s discipline or area of expertise and should address the following elements:

- Statement of need/problem to be solved. Likely contribution to the discipline;
- Description of the RSCA work established to date and track record;
- Scope of work for the proposed multidisciplinary project including methodology;
- Nature of the multidisciplinary collaboration and plan. The need for and the value of the multi-disciplinary collaboration to address the need and/or solve the problem;
- Plan for dissemination of RSCA product;
- Plan for seeking extramural funding including planned funding source and amount;
- Project timeline including major milestones; and
- References/works cited, as appropriate (one-page limit; not counted as part of the 3-page limit).

The Multidisciplinary RSCA Stimulus Grant may complement the University Faculty RSCA Assigned Time Program. If the RSCA project is currently funded, the applicant will have to demonstrate the exclusive need for this additional internal grant to fund multidisciplinary collaboration that is demonstrably necessary for growth and expansion.

Only one proposal per lead PI faculty member and per RSCA project may be submitted. Proposals are required to identify at least one co-PI from another discipline with a demonstrable track record in the functional area required for the project.

**Supporting Narrative**

Demonstration of the need for contributions by all co-PIs is required. Each co-PI must write a one-page supporting narrative describing the joint effort in general and their individual contribution in greater detail.

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Prior to disbursement of funds, confirm that all project team members have active [ORCIDs](https://orcid.org) required for the proper cataloging of their scholarly work products;
2. Before the end of the award period, complete and submit a proposal for one extramural grant to fund the continuation of the work beyond this award period. Grant proposals from the Colleges of Science or Engineering are required to request $100,000 or more in extramural funding. Proposals from all other colleges are required to request $50,000 or more in extramural funding. The Research Development team will be available to support this extramural funding proposal effort; and

3. Within 30 days from the end of the award period, complete a final report to summarize the results of the work funded under this award, in a format to be prescribed by the Office of Research.

Available Funding
The total available funds for the Multidisciplinary RSCA Stimulus Grant are $100,000.

- Up to two awards will be granted to successful applications from the Colleges of Engineering and Science, for a total funding amount not exceeding $50,000.
- Up to four awards will be granted to successful applications from the Colleges of Business, Education, Health & Human Sciences, Humanities & the Arts, Professional & Global Education, Social Sciences, and the University Library, for a total funding amount not exceeding $50,000.

Application Process
A complete application package will consist of (1) a completed Application Form (with the included budget justification); (2) Proposal Narrative with references page; and (3) Supporting Narrative for each co-PI.

Applications should (if possible) be compiled into one PDF file and must be submitted electronically no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2020, to the Office of Research at officeofresearch@sjsu.edu and copy your college (see email submission addresses below). See Proposal Requirements above for the requirements of each section. To help us identify your submission under this grant, please use the keywords Multidisciplinary Stimulus Grant Proposal in the subject line of the email. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty College

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College Email Address
Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee comprised of representatives from the Division of Research & Innovation and the respective disciplines.

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating proposals:

1. Clarity of the proposal
2. Completeness of the proposal
3. The degree to which the proposed work is innovative and contributes to new or transformative knowledge and scholarship in the discipline
4. The value of the multidisciplinary approach to solving the problem and/or addressing the need
5. Established RSCA results and impact
6. Likely learning impact on students participating in the work
7. Dissemination plans and practical outcomes of proposed work
8. Feasibility of the proposed activity within the timeline and budget
9. Appropriateness of the proposed budget and consistency with the narrative
10. Feasibility of extramural funding plan (including assessment of potential funding agency) and the likelihood of proposal readiness at the end of the award period.

Grant awards are selected administratively by the Division of Research & Innovation based on committee evaluations. The Division of Research & Innovation reserves the right to select or deny, in its sole discretion, any, all, or some of the applications for award.

Process Timeline

- Application Form: Deadline Thursday, February 27, 2020
- Review Period: February 28, 2020 – March 27, 2020
- Notification Period: March 30, 2020 – April 10, 2020
- Award Period: May 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Additional Information

- Multidisciplinary RSCA Stimulus Grant Instructions (PDF)
- Multidisciplinary RSCA Stimulus Grant Application Form (PDF)

Contact Information

If you have questions about the Multidisciplinary RSCA Stimulus Grant, please contact the Office of Research in care of Dr. Julia Gaudinski, Director of Research Development, at julia.gaudinski@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-2431.

For any matters related to the submission process, please contact the Office of Research in care of Raymond Harbert, Project Coordinator, at raymond.harbert@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1481.