

Intellectual Community Planning Grants

The Provost's Office is offering support to Duke faculty who are interested in convening a group of colleagues to begin or test a new collaboration around a shared intellectual interest.

RFP Process

All proposals must meet eligibility requirements and satisfy proposal guidelines. Proposals should be for one year. Project funds ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be awarded for use during the 2018 calendar year. This is the third year of this grant opportunity. Recipients from the grant cycles in both the [first](#) and [second years](#) represent a broad range of groups and new projects.

Eligibility

- Any Duke regular rank faculty member, from any discipline, is eligible to propose and form a new collaborative group of at least five participating members.
- Prospective collaborations may be framed around **disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary themes**. The search function at scholars.duke.edu is a useful tool to find other faculty who share a particular intellectual interest.
- A faculty lead organizer (PI) must be identified, under whose name the proposal will be submitted.
- Collaborative groups that include, but are not comprised of the majority of, faculty from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing are welcome to apply.

Selection Criteria and Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Potential to build collaborations in exciting intellectual areas for relevant department(s), school(s) and/or cross-cutting institute(s), whether around fundamental/applied research, innovative teaching, or outreach/engagement.
2. Successful proposals will be submitted by the organizing group of faculty who have self-aggregated around a shared intellectual interest, and who want to pursue that common interest in a variety of venues, e.g., small monthly dinner meetings, larger quarterly meetings, workshops, etc. Meetings should be designed to facilitate potential collaboration.
3. Preference will be given to proposals that articulate a plan to sustain interactions, prepare joint grant applications, and/or create a product such as a class, shared research project, extra- or co-curricular offering, etc.

The review process of submitted proposals will be overseen by the Vice Provosts for Interdisciplinary Studies and Academic Affairs. All proposals, and discussions thereof, will be kept strictly confidential. The intent is that the collective set of award recipients will reflect the richness of intellectual approaches and modes of inquiry that make Duke a vibrant university.

Funding

Awards of \$1,000-\$5,000 will be provided to support each successful proposal. Funds can be used to cover the cost of food, meeting venue, external speakers or other meeting costs, and/or exploratory research (as by an RA) into potential collaborators at Duke, UNC, NC State, NCCU, RTI, etc.

Proposal Requirements

The Provost's Office uses *MyResearchProposal* online application software to submit applications. You will be asked to upload the following documents:

1. a **brief (maximum two-page) narrative** that articulates (1) the area of shared intellectual interest, (2) the question or problem the group proposes to explore, (3) the proposed faculty group's unique position and qualifications for engaging in the interest area and/or addressing the question or problem, (4) activities the group plans to conduct during the exploratory period, and (5) anticipated outcome (e.g., sustained interactions, joint grant application, new educational offering, Bass Connections project team proposal, research project, etc.);
2. **whether this is a nascent or continuing collaboration**; if continuing, a brief explanation of the activities to date;
3. a proposed **budget**;
4. **information on other funding** already obtained or requested;
5. a listing of the organizing core faculty group with **2-page CVs** for each.

Instructions

- To apply visit <http://bit.ly/myresearchproposal>, click on "Create New User" (or log in if you already have an account). Proposals must be submitted under the faculty lead organizer (PI)'s name.
- A step-by-step user's guide for applying via the *MyResearchProposal* software is available - Please review this [document](#).
- Enter Access Code '**PROVOST**' then select the **Intellectual Community Planning Grant** opportunity and follow the instructions.
- For any questions concerning *MyResearchProposal* passwords or system issues, please contact Anita Grissom or Kara McKelvey at myresearchproposal@duke.edu.

Timeline

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| RFP released | 09/20/2017 |
| RFP deadline for submission EXTENDED – new deadline: | 10/20/2017 10/27/2017 |
| Project winner(s) notified | 11/01/2017 |
| Funds made available (or sooner upon request) | 01/01/2018 |

Contact

For any questions regarding your proposal, please contact:
Mindy Miller, Manager, Special Projects, mindy.miller@duke.edu

FAQ

Who can apply?

Any group of Duke faculty members with a regular rank faculty lead organizer (PI).

Our project idea is not very interdisciplinary. Is this ok?

Yes, we are interested in collaborations of all types, including those framed around disciplinary themes.

Is this our only chance at submitting a project proposal?

No, we plan to have RFP requests again in at least 2018 and 2019.

Is there an optimal number of faculty for a proposal?

We are expecting to see at least five faculty interested in developing a collaborative group around the shared intellectual interest.

What kinds of items and expenses would ICPG funds be able to cover?

Funds can be used to cover the cost of food, meeting venue, external speakers or other meeting costs, and/or exploratory research (as by an RA) into potential collaborators at Duke, UNC, NC State, NCCU, RTI, etc.

What kinds of deliverables do you expect the ICPG groups to produce?

Examples of successful outcomes for an ICPG group include: sustained and/or expanding interactions in the group, a joint grant application, a new educational offering, a Bass Connections project team proposal, a research project, etc.

How are the ICPGs different from other proposals, like the Provost's Pilot Research Grants, Bass Connections, and Collaboratories?

ICPGs are aimed at faculty groups in the initial stages of exploration of a topic, to begin or test a new collaboration around a shared intellectual interest, and thus provide a smaller level of initial funding. Bass Connections project teams receive comparable funding amounts, but require participation of students at multiple learner levels and a focus on applied problems; the application process also highly encourages engagement with partners from outside the university (NGOs, government agencies, corporations, etc.). PPRGs support collaborative work across a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary topics that has achieved initial stage success and which has the potential for broad impact. Collaboratories are a new opportunity to support groups of faculty working on more established projects that seek to provide tangible solutions to targeted problems in three areas: energy and water resources; race, religion and citizenship; and population health.