



Research Administration

*2016 TEMPLE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
TARGETED, BRIDGE, AND SEED AWARDS
PROGRAM*

Targeted Funding Program

Proposals are invited for internal funding to support multidisciplinary projects that demonstrate potential to expand on existing strengths or develop new innovative research related to strategic areas of emphasis for Temple University. This year, the funding theme revolves around **Data Science**, aiming to connect multiple disciplinary perspectives, including computer science, statistics, computational social sciences, engineering, medicine, biology, genomics and business to harness the potential of large-scale data. The funding program aims to foster the natural synergies among these disciplines to increase interdisciplinary collaborations and facilitate reaching a critical mass necessary to advance knowledge, expand curricula, pursue external funding and create technology commercialization opportunities.

The Targeted program will support innovative, early-stage interdisciplinary research projects on data science among experts on data science methods and application domain scientists. The intent is to facilitate data science-related collaborations of investigators from multiple domains who work on pilot and feasibility studies, secondary analysis of existing data, development of new data analysis methods, generation of preliminary results and publication of initial articles that will be used to prepare larger data science grant proposals within the next 12 months. The projects also need to have a commercialization plan. **The awarded teams are expected to submit grant proposals to external funding agencies in 2017.**

Matching Support

To be considered, proposals must have significant school/college and department support, as evidenced by matching for the funds requested, including “dollar-to-dollar” matching or “in-kind” support, such as teaching relief and summer support, from the cognizant school/college or department.

Overview and Key Requirements

- Between four and eight awards will be funded this year.
- Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in direct costs for a one-year period starting July 1, 2016.
- Each proposal must have two Temple senior investigators; one serving the role of a methods expert and the other acting as an application domain scientist. An investigator can be involved in only one project proposal.
- A Letter of Interest is required, and should be submitted to Rosemary C. Dillon at dillon@temple.edu by Monday, May 9, 2016. The letter should include the area of expertise (which methods or which application domain) and a very brief description (one paragraph) of the proposed project.
- Applicants must attend an “open dating” session on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 to briefly present their area of expertise. Two PowerPoint slides will be sufficient for this purpose. This session is planned to be held in Alter Hall, in the 7th floor commons area. Final details will be posted on the OVPR website: <http://research.temple.edu/news-events>.
- The Targeted proposal submission will be open only to investigators who have submitted a Letter of Interest by Monday, May 9, 2016 and who have participated in the “open dating” session on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
- Targeted proposals will be funded at an anticipated amount of \$25,000-\$50,000 for each proposal (excluding matching support).

Review Criteria

Proposals of high scientific merit are sought for this program. Successful proposals will be those from teams of investigators who show promise of: disseminating their work at high-impact conferences and in peer-reviewed scientific journals; receiving competitive grants; and having a plan for commercialization. The review panel will evaluate scientific merit of the proposals according to intellectual strength, broad impact and strength of the investigators’ team. Criteria that will determine intellectual strength and impact will include significance, innovation and feasibility of the project. Investigators’ complementary and integrated expertise will be evaluated, as well as their individual and collaborative history. All proposals should address how the work would contribute to developing data science capabilities.

Application Format (Not to exceed 12 pages)

- Times New Roman typeface; 11point font; 1-inch page margins; PDF format for email submission

The following sections are required:

- **Page 1:** Project Title; names of the methods and the domain expertise of co-investigators; their affiliations including email address and phone number; sum of requested funds
- **Page 2:** Executive Summary intended for a non-academic audience (not more than 1 page)
- **Pages 3 – 6:** Project Description (no more than 4 pages) Include:
 - Milestones
 - o project timeline
 - o regular status updates
 - Outcomes
 - Data Acquisition and Management Plan
- **Pages 7 – 10:** Project Personnel o identification of proposed members of the research team and their roles (e.g., project director, research assistant, staff scientist, faculty) o estimated level of effort (in hours) proposed for each member o biosketch for the proposed principal investigator(s) and other key members of the research team (1 page each)
- **Page 11:** Budget (1 page) o Budgets will not need to include F&A/overhead o Allowable cost items are stipend and tuition for a graduate assistant and supplies needed to conduct the proposed study
- **Page 12:** Budget Justification (no more than 1 page)

Elements Encouraged/Considered Beneficial

- focus on multi-college research
- provision for student participation
- participation of PIs in developing/extending the capabilities of this hub either by contributing to infrastructure capabilities, tools, datasets or by serving as use cases
- collaboration with industries that have a presence in the Philadelphia region
- components which contribute to the sustainability of data science at Temple University by:
 - o extending the usability/availability of analytic tools and concepts
 - o supporting the design of relevant and cutting edge educational curricula at secondary, post-secondary, undergraduate and graduate levels
- components which demonstrate the potential to facilitate ongoing dialog across the Commonwealth and with external stakeholders which will enable the establishment and growth of a dynamic data science ecosystem across the region which, in turn, will support the growth of relevant industries and associated jobs in Pennsylvania

Important Dates

Letter of Interest: Monday, May 9, 2016

“Open Dating” Session: Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Proposals Due: Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Selection/Notification Process Targeted grant recipients will be announced on or about **June 15, 2016**.

Project Start Date The project start date is **July 1, 2016**.

Please direct all Targeted Program Inquiries dealing with scope, research content and proposal preparation to:

Dr. Zoran Obradovic (zoran.obradovic@temple.edu); or

Dr. Paul A. Pavlou (pavlou@temple.edu)

Please direct all Targeted Program Letters of Interest and Proposals to:

Rosemary C. Dillon

Director, Special Projects - OVPR

215-204-7551

dillon@temple.edu

To be considered, completed Targeted Proposals must be received no later than 11:59:59PM EDT on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Bridge Funding Program

Bridge funding provides financial support for existing research programs for which external funding sources are expended. The funding needs to support the continuation of the operations of a lab or program in order to avoid ending the program while external support is being reviewed or pursued. Bridge funding must be used in a strategic and coordinated way to maintain project/lab momentum while assuring effective use of limited resources. The program funds may be used to retain key personnel, the performance of limited laboratory or other research activity to permit the accumulation of new data essential to renew a source of external funding, or to prevent major disruptions in the continuation of research activities that would negatively impact the ability to secure continuation funding from external sponsors. It is expected that all discretionary monies available to an investigator will be expended before using funding provided through this program

Overview

- Between six and eight one-year bridge fund awards of up to \$25,000 will be available each year, as matching support for equivalent funds being provided by the requesting Dean.
- The deadline for submitting a bridge request for the 2016 cycle is Tuesday, May 31, 2016.
- Approved bridge funding will cease upon either the start date of the external award or notification that the final round of funding requests was not awarded.

Review Process/Application Format

- Each academic unit is responsible for developing its own process for considering Bridge funding requests internally before submitting proposals through the Dean to the Vice President for Research. Investigators should check with their school/college research administration office about this process. **Requests must have the written approval of the investigator's Chair and Dean.**
- Bridge funding is intended to extend **extramurally funded** research projects only. Requests for pilot studies or other unfunded research will not be considered.
- Proposals for bridge funding should be no longer than five pages. Proposals need to include a statement of plans to request funding from external sponsors. Prior proposals submitted, along with reviewer comments should be provided when possible with the submission.
- This program will support only projects with a high likelihood of continued funding by the sponsor. Bridge funds will not support projects that have either received a poor score from a funding agency or have reached the limit of amendments permitted by an agency without being funded.

Seed Funding Program

Seed funding affords an opportunity for special projects with the aim of fostering the engagement of multidisciplinary teams to establish linkages towards attaining extramural funding. This program is open to all disciplines, with prioritization given to projects that have the potential to position the researcher or research team to be competitive for external funding or to bring high impact to Temple University through the proposed work.

Overview

- Up to six seed awards between \$5,000 and \$25,000 will be available each year.
- **Requests may be submitted throughout the year.**
- Projects eligible for support include: research exchanges, campus-wide symposia and special events of interest to researchers at Temple University, as well as pilot projects with the strong potential to position the investigator(s) to be competitive for external funding.
- Seed funding is not available to support faculty salaries, conference travel, or research travel.

Overview

- Each academic unit is responsible for developing its own process for considering Seed funding requests internally before submitting proposals through the Dean to the Vice President for Research. Investigators should check with their school/college research administration office about this process. **Requests must have the written approval of the investigator's Chair and Dean.**
- Proposals for Seed funding should be no longer than five pages; there is no specific format. Points to emphasize include how the project will help position Temple University as a leader or emerging leader in the field, how the work will strengthen synergy among the university research community, and/or how the project's outcome will generate extramural funding.

Please direct all Bridge and Seed Program Inquiries and Proposals to:

Rosemary C. Dillon
Director, Special Projects - OVPR
215-204-7551; dillon@temple.edu