



## UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

### 2019 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

April 25, 2018 (*This RFP replaces prior draft versions.*)

#### Overview of Funding Opportunity

The University of California (UC) is pleased to announce a research funding opportunity for UC multicampus collaborations. Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPIs) are multicampus or systemwide research collaborations that go beyond individual Principal Investigator (PI)-driven projects to benefit the UC research enterprise; strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university; launch pioneering research in thematic, multidisciplinary, or interdisciplinary areas; enhance education and training; and benefit California and its people. The competition is open to all fields of research and scholarship. Applicants will have an opportunity to indicate which disciplines or interdisciplinary or thematic areas best describe the proposed collaboration. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed activities meet program goals to advance outstanding research and cutting edge discoveries, support innovative graduate student research, enhance undergraduate education, impact the lives of Californians and engage Californians in UC research, inform public policy, and increase UC's competitiveness, support innovative graduate student research, and enhance undergraduate education.

MRPI proposals must be submitted by UC PIs. This opportunity includes two award types. Applicants may apply for *only one* of the two award types, and may participate in *only one* proposal. Current recipients of MRPI or President's Research Catalyst Award funding are *not* eligible to apply for concurrent funding. Both award types require the collaboration of at least three UC campuses, and may include collaboration with one or more UC-managed national laboratories. The award start date is January 1, 2019. In brief, the two award types are:

- 1) "**Planning/Pilot Awards**" open only to *new* multicampus or systemwide collaborations for planning, capacity-building and/or establishing the research infrastructure and pilot data to launch novel, cutting-edge interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary research. Prior recipients of Planning MRPI or Catalyst awards are not eligible to request a renewal or supplement in this category. Applicants may request one or two years of funding.
- 2) "**Program Awards**" (2 years maximum) open to *both* new and established multicampus collaborations (without concurrent systemwide support), and prior recipients of the MRPI Planning/Pilot Award who wish to extend and expand their collaboration. Recipients of current MRPI or Catalyst Program Awards with project end dates after December 31, 2018 are *not* eligible to apply.

We anticipate approximately \$8 million total funding for new awards across all categories and award types for the two-year period. Funding allocations between the two award types will be based on proposal pressure as well as potential to diversify and enhance the systemwide portfolio in areas of key strategic importance. Depending on proposal merit, available funding, and portfolio balance, we anticipate that 30-40% of funded projects will be Planning/Pilot Awards, and the remainder will be Program Awards.

Past MRPI competitions have been highly competitive, garnering over 100 proposals each round. The overall success rate for the past two cycles combined was 12%. In 2017, the program awarded 15 proposals, totaling \$17 million over 4 years. [Abstracts](#) for current MRPI projects can be viewed on the UC Research Initiatives website.

All proposals must conform to the requirements of the final RFP, and (where they differ), not to prior draft versions of the RFP. It is the applicant's responsibility to check the [UC Research Initiatives website](#) for any program updates or clarifications prior to submitting the full proposal.

## RFP Contents and Outline

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## Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities for Multicampus Research Collaborations

Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives provide stimulus and cohesion for thematic topics important to the UC and California and serve as a resource for the UC system. Proposed research collaborations can be organized to carry out focused research efforts, to facilitate high levels of interdisciplinary collaboration and interaction that advance innovative research, or to provide competitive grants in important fields of research. Following guidance from a systemwide joint faculty-administration committee (the [Portfolio Review Group](#)), MRPI awards should be directed to research that fulfills the following three principles:

- 1) Research that enhances UC’s systemwide research capacity, influence, and advantage by providing access to the facilities, resources and opportunities available across the UC system.
- 2) Research that enhances multicampus collaborations, and fosters multicampus engagement, in order to achieve outcomes not available through (or duplicative of) a single campus and discipline.
- 3) Research that mutually benefits UC and California, its people, environment, and economy.

To fulfill these principles, MRPI funding is intended to support:

- Areas in which seed-funding could lead to future extramural funding, especially in areas where UC campuses are underfunded relative to other comparable research institutions;
- Areas that are underfunded by the government in relation to their perceived importance to the state or the nation; and
- Emerging fields of study, innovative or multidisciplinary research that could increase UC’s research competitiveness.

The MRPI opportunity is intended to fund *unique* collaborations not otherwise supported at the systemwide level. Collaborations that receive concurrent MRPI or Catalyst award funding (i.e., awards with end dates beyond December 31, 2018) are not eligible to apply. Collaborations that receive concurrent funding from *other* UCOP systemwide programs, sources, or opportunities must disclose that support in their proposals, and that funding may be considered in the MRPI funding decision regardless of research merit. Proposals for which the primary intent is renewal or extension of expiring support without a compelling rationale for continuation are unlikely to receive funding. All applicants are required to describe how MRPI support is expected to leverage extramural funding and provide plans for securing extramural support to make the multicampus collaboration self-supporting.

## Award Type Scope and Intent: Planning/Pilot Awards

Award Duration: 1-2 years (start date January 1, 2019)

Funding Request: \$150,000/year maximum

Restrictions: Non-renewable award open to *new* multicampus research collaborations only.  
Cannot be awarded concurrently with any other MRPI or Catalyst funding.  
See Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria for additional restrictions.

*Intent:* To create or strengthen collaborative *research capacity* in novel or cutting edge fields, for *new* interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaborations, or multicampus collaborations that have not previously received MRPI, Organized Research Unit (ORU) or Multicampus Research Unit (MRU) support. This award type provides funding to launch new collaborations across the UC enterprise to address gaps in critical research areas that would strengthen UC and benefit California. Awards will enhance the ability of new multicampus collaborations to launch initiatives and successfully compete for extramural awards. Successful proposals will demonstrate the impact and benefit of this collaboration for advancing UC's research mission and enterprise; provide detailed plans regarding the collaboration's research goals and activities; and clearly articulate goals and metrics for success within the award period. Project teams are encouraged to include faculty across career stages as appropriate to the proposed project and disciplines, and provide meaningful research and training opportunities for graduate students.

*Examples of award activities include (but are not limited to):*

- Funding for pilot multicampus collaborative projects, or to develop new databases, data sets, or other research capacity that can be shared across the UC campuses to enhance novel research or launch new research directions;
- Funding to train and support graduate students and post-doctoral scholars in new multicampus, interdisciplinary research collaborations that will enhance UC's competitiveness in recruiting and retaining outstanding graduate students in novel fields; or
- Funding to convene new multicampus collaborators with cross-disciplinary perspectives in workshops aimed at launching novel research directions or seeding ongoing collaboration in targeted areas.

## Award Type Scope and Intent: Program Awards

Award Duration: 2 years (start date January 1, 2019)

Funding Request: No limitation on annual or total budget request

Restrictions: Open to both *new* and established multicampus research collaborations.  
Cannot be awarded concurrently with any other MRPI or Catalyst funding.

*Intent:* To stimulate novel and compelling multicampus or systemwide research. Program awards may support new collaborations, or established multicampus endeavors that demonstrate both compelling benefit to UC and compelling justification for ongoing systemwide support. Awards will advance UC's research mission and impact through support of novel faculty research, genuine multicampus engagement and collaboration, public engagement, comprehensive opportunities for graduate student support and training, and benefit to UC and California. Awards will enhance the ability of new multicampus collaborations to launch initiatives and successfully compete for extramural awards. Project teams should include faculty across career stages (Assistant, Associate, full Professor, or equivalent academic titles) as appropriate to the proposed project and disciplines, and provide meaningful research and training opportunities for graduate students.

Program Awards must articulate meaningful activities appropriate to the relevant fields in the following areas:

- Public engagement and benefit (community collaboration; citizen science; or other outreach or education; details and examples provided in the FAQs); and
- Contributions to undergraduate education and training (these may include research internships, contributions to curriculum, or other components appropriate to the disciplinary and topical areas).

Please see the Proposal Scope and Review Criteria sections for additional information on these elements.

*Examples of award activities include (but are not limited to):*

- New multicampus and systemwide collaborations that are prepared to meet the scope and requirements for a Program Award;
- Established multicampus collaborations that want to launch new initiatives or expand their collaborations into new areas or bring in new UC collaborators and require systemwide funding to achieve these goals; or
- Currently funded MRPI projects with end dates on or before December 31, 2018 that demonstrate a compelling justification for renewal or continued support to enhance the systemwide research mission and benefit to UC and California.

## Key Dates

|                                 |                                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Final RFP Release:              | Wednesday, April 25, 2018                           |
| Letters of Intent (LOI) Due:    | Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time   |
| Notification of LOI Decision:   | by Tuesday, June 12, 2018                           |
| Invited Full Proposals Due:     | Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time |
| Notification of Review Outcome: | by Monday, December 3, 2018                         |
| Award Start Date:               | Tuesday, January 1, 2019                            |

## Overview of Application and Review Process

*We strongly encourage all applicants to begin the online LOI and application submission process early to accommodate any potential delays due to technical issues. All submission deadlines are strictly enforced.*

**Letter of Intent Submission and Review:** Applicants must submit a complete LOI using the template on the proposalCENTRAL website. LOIs will be evaluated for responsiveness to this RFP in three areas: 1) Eligibility and completeness; 2) Compliance with program requirements; and 3) Strength of alignment with the program goals and funding priorities. Scholarly merit and research quality will *not* be evaluated at the LOI stage. No feedback or comments will be provided on the LOI, and the program decision is binding. No application may move forward without an approved LOI.

**Invitation to Submit Full Proposal:** Approved LOIs will be given access to the full application on proposalCENTRAL. All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the instructions, templates and guidelines provided, and must conform to the requirements of the final version of the RFP. *It is the applicants' responsibility to check the program website for updates, clarifications or changes prior to submitting the full proposal.*

**Full Proposal Submission:** Applicants should prepare their proposals in language accessible to a general scientific audience and avoid jargon. Full proposals must be submitted through the host UC campus Contracts and Grants or Sponsored Projects Office. It is the PI's responsibility to follow campus rules, procedures, and timelines for submitting a proposal and to confirm that all collaborators have obtained institutional approval, if required, from the collaborating campuses and institutions in advance of proposal submission.

**Proposal Review and Selection:** UC Research Initiatives will manage a competitive peer review; scoring and ranking of proposals will be based on the criteria and requirements outlined in this RFP. Reviewers will be selected for their subject matter expertise, and multidisciplinary panels will be composed of faculty and researchers drawn from both inside and outside of UC. Review assignments will be made to ensure a fair and balanced review and to address conflicts of interest. There will also be a comprehensive portfolio review spanning all fields to establish the balance of funding across the portfolio.

Final funding decisions and selection are at the discretion of the office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) in the UC Office of the President. Decisions may not be appealed, but declined proposals may be submitted to future funding competitions without prejudice. All awards are contingent on availability of funding.

## Eligibility and Exclusions

*All proposals must conform to these eligibility and exclusion requirements. Adherence to these requirements will be reviewed at both the LOI and the full proposal stage. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure the proposal meets all eligibility criteria relevant to the award type to which they are applying.*

1. **Host Campus Eligibility:** All proposals must be submitted through the Contracts and Grants or Sponsored Projects Office of the identified host UC campus. The host campus must be one of the ten UC campuses [Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara or Santa Cruz]. The host campus is responsible for award administration and research compliance.

2. **Multicampus Collaborative Structure and Eligible Collaborating Sites:** Both award types require the collaboration of at least three UC campuses, and may also include additional collaborating sites within the UC system. These additional sites may include: other UC campuses, one or more UC-affiliated national laboratories, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, any of the five UC medical centers, Hastings School of Law, and other UC research entities.

*Exclusions and Limitations:* Proposed research collaborators from outside the UC system must identify the funding from other sources they will contribute to the project to support their participation in the proposed collaboration. Funding may not support personnel or activities at the UC Office of the President.

3. **Eligible Multicampus Research Collaborations:** Each proposal must come from a collaborative research team. New collaborations are eligible to apply for either a Planning/Pilot Award or a Program Award. Established collaborations, including MRUs, ORUs with systemwide activities, and currently or previously funded MRPIs or Catalyst award recipients with award end dates on or before December 31, 2018, may apply for funding this round in the category of *Program Awards only*. Any collaborations, programs, institutes or centers that receive systemwide funding for their activities must fully disclose that funding in their proposal.

*Exclusions and Limitations:* Any *concurrently* funded MRPI or Catalyst award collaboration is ineligible to submit a proposal (i.e., collaborations with current award end date after December 31, 2018). Planning Awards are non-renewable. Currently funded MRPI or Catalyst Award collaborations with project end dates of December 31, 2018 or earlier that would like to extend their collaboration *must* apply in the Program Award category. MRUs or other systemwide research entities that receive systemwide funding on an ongoing or non-competed basis are ineligible to apply. For all proposals, other systemwide funding sources must be disclosed at both the LOI and full proposal stage, and will be considered as part of the funding decision.

4. **Eligible Investigators and Collaborators:** Each proposal must identify one Lead PI who holds principal investigator status at the host campus. The Lead PI is responsible for the overall coordination and research oversight. Each collaborating campus or site must identify one (and only one) collaborating PI (Co-PI) site lead who holds principal investigator status at that site. The site leads are responsible for research oversight at their sites. For guidelines on UC PI status, contact your campus research office, or refer to Section 1-530 of the [UC Contracts and Grants Manual](#). Additional collaborating investigators (Co-Is) at the collaborating sites may be identified if they contribute substantively to the proposed research.

*Exclusions and Limitations:* An individual may participate as key personnel (including PI, Co-PI, and Co-Investigator) in one and only one proposal submitted this competition round. A PI, Co-PI, or Co-I on any *concurrently* funded MRPI or Catalyst Award (i.e., current award end date after December 31, 2018) is ineligible to participate in a proposal. A PI or Co-PI funded by a UC Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) award that would overlap with the award period of the MRPI award is ineligible to serve as a PI or Co-PI on any MRPI award, and their inclusion in other roles in the proposal (e.g. Co-I) must be in a research area clearly distinct from their LFRP funding. Academic personnel whose primary role is in university-wide, campus, or school administration above the level of Dean, or whose primary appointment is at the UC Office of the President, may not serve as PIs, co-PIs, or other key personnel on any proposal. The host campus and lead PI on the proposal may not be changed after the LOI is approved.

## Allowable Costs and Budget Restrictions

1. Allowable Costs and Budget Justification: Proposal budgets may include *direct cost* expenditures that are incurred to directly support the proposed collaborative research activities only. Funding requests must be judicious and well-justified, and conform to the budget guidelines below and further detailed in the application instructions and templates.

2. Existing Support and New Activities: The intent of this opportunity is to fund *new* research projects and collaborations. To ensure that funds target novel research efforts, all applicants must disclose all current and concurrent UCOP and systemwide research funding in both the LOI and full proposal. In addition, the full proposal will require disclosure of all other sources of support. Existing support will be considered as part of the decision-making process. *Program Award applicants please note*: Proposals by existing collaborations that request funding to initiate new research directions must provide a compelling justification regarding the unique contribution of the proposed new activities beyond the existing work and support.

3. Non-Allowable Costs and Budget Restrictions: Funding provided by this opportunity may not be used to cover patient care costs, clinical trials, patent execution costs, fundraising costs, subawards to non-UC-affiliated entities (except as may be required to support community engagement or participation), or indirect cost recovery. For proposals that include collaboration with one or more of the three UC-managed national labs, lab indirect costs may be covered by matching funds from non-UC sources or through cost-sharing by the labs.

Funding may not be requested to provide core institutional support, or to supplement funding for existing projects already supported by other systemwide funding from UCOP. Funding to cover new operational costs likely to extend beyond the award period is not allowed.

Proposals to purchase equipment or other research infrastructure located at only one or two campuses must include a comprehensive description of how the equipment or infrastructure will enhance research capacity and competitiveness across the UC system, be made accessible throughout UC, and be made available to a minimum of three campuses. Funding for equipment purchases or resources for which access is limited to only one or two campuses will not be considered.

## Proposal Components

### The Letter of Intent

LOI instructions are available [online in proposalCENTRAL](#) and attached in Appendix 2 of this document.

Applicant teams must determine in advance whether they are applying for the Planning/Pilot Award or the Program Award, and complete the appropriate LOI and application materials.

The LOI includes the following required information:

1. Proposal title, total estimated budget, and requested award term
2. Lead PI name, title, and departmental and campus affiliation
3. Host campus (usually the campus affiliation of the Lead PI)
4. Names, departments, and UC campus or institutional affiliation for each co-PI/site lead (exactly one per collaborating site)
5. Identification of primary research field(s) and thematic area(s)
6. Brief text responses addressing the eligibility criteria, and programmatic and structural components of proposal
7. Abstract providing a brief description of the proposed scope of research and activities, expected impact on UC research/scholarship, and a brief description of any specialized facilities or resources for each participating site relevant to the proposed activities (2500 characters, or approximately 400 words)
8. Disclosure of current and anticipated concurrent systemwide research funding

### **Full Proposal Scope and Content**

There are separate application templates for the Planning/Pilot Award and the Program Award, and applicants must complete the designated application materials for each award type and competition year. This section provides a high-level outline of the required proposal elements. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal are required to review the detailed application instructions and use the templates provided for their full proposal submission.

***All full proposals (both award types) have the following eight required elements, plus one optional element. Additional requirements for Program Awards are itemized separately (see items #10-12).***

1. **Abstract/Project Summary** (textbox; 2500 characters): Summarize the key activities and contributions of the proposed collaboration. The abstract should be appropriate for a general scholarly audience and avoid disciplinary jargon or technical language specific to a single field.
2. **Proposed Research Activities** (5-page maximum, including tables and figures): Identify the specific aims, research activities, outcomes and scholarly contributions of the program or initiative, including the innovative and collaborative components that will advance scholarship in emerging fields, multi- or interdisciplinary areas, or areas of strategic importance to UC. The narrative should describe the contribution of the proposed activities to advancing outstanding research, the likelihood of the research to position UC as a leader in the field or thematic area, how the proposed activities will enhance UC's competitiveness in attracting outstanding faculty and graduate students, and plans for obtaining extramural support for ongoing research activities beyond the award period.
3. **Faculty Collaboration and Graduate Student Research Opportunities** (~1 page): Justify the composition of the team and articulate how the collaboration and shared leadership opportunities will be integrated into the proposed project and activities to achieve the programmatic goals. Describe the collaborative research and training aspects of the proposal in relation to: 1) collaborative approaches that will ensure genuine engagement and participation by researchers across the campuses and collaborating partner institutions; 2) shared project leadership and opportunities for professional development across professorial ranks; and 3) meaningful graduate student engagement and opportunities for professional development and progress towards degree.

*Note: Proposals that request funding to offer competitive grants (subawards) to connect campus projects in a multicampus network must explain how this approach will leverage the impact of research across the system in an important area of research. If allocations to individual recipients are proposed, the proposal must articulate how this use of systemwide funds enhances systemwide research and could not be better achieved through the funding of collaborative or multidisciplinary approaches.*

4. **Research Benefits, Impact on UC and California, and Accountability** (~1/2 page): Describe the mechanisms and collaborative approaches that will ensure that the activities and outcomes of the collaboration have UC systemwide benefit and impact. Identify the specific benefits that are expected to be accrued by UC or California and the importance of the research to California. Benefits may include a description of how the collaboration increases efficiency through common resources while stimulating the systemwide creative process and/or promoting new educational curricula. Applicants must include a description of the proposed governance or advisory structure to ensure multicampus benefit, accountability and impact.
5. **Timeframe, Milestones and Evaluation Metrics** (~1/2 page): Identify the research timeline, benchmarks, and milestones, and justify how the proposed time period and requested budget will accomplish the milestones to make a significant impact in the field. Identify specific evaluation approaches and outcome metrics, and include a description of the methods that will be used to evaluate the research and plan future research directions. Include a description of how the program will either end or transition to non-UCOP funds at the completion of the funding period, as appropriate.
6. **Literature Cited** (2-page maximum): Identify the literature cited in the research narrative and proposed activities.

7. **Itemized Budget Template and Justification:** Provide a detailed budget, by project year, completed on the Excel template. In addition, provide a budget justification, not to exceed two pages, describing the significant project expenditures. The total budget requested in the budget template must match the total budget requested in the proposal cover sheet. If these figures do not match, the lower figure will be used to determine the maximum award. See Allowable Costs above, and the detailed instructions in the templates provided.

8. **Attachments:** Additional attachments must include the following applicable materials: a) Curriculum vitae (CV) for the PI and Co-PIs (site-leads); b) Disclosure of all current or anticipated concurrent sources of systemwide (UCOP) research funds supporting this collaboration (template provided); and c) Identification of any human subjects (IRB), animal use, or toxic substance issues and the approach to compliance (1-page template). *Note:* CVs for Co-Investigators and other Key Personnel who contribute substantively to the research should be included *only* if they will be funded directly by the award. CVs are limited to 3 pages each. CVs should be submitted in the standard format for your field or discipline (NIH biosketch, NSF, and other formats are acceptable).

9. **Optional:** Letter(s) of commitment identifying specific campus resources (if any) that will be required to complete the proposed research (no more than 3 total pages). *Only letters identifying campus commitments, not general letters of support, will be accepted.*

***Items # 10-12 below apply to Program Awards only:***

10. **Public Engagement and Community Collaboration** (~1 page; required): Describe the components for community participation or engagement with the research. As appropriate and tailored to the research activities or disciplines, public engagement may include community collaborative research, citizen science, community participation and educational outreach, or activities that demonstrate the value of UC research to the California public. Outline the anticipated benefits of the community collaboration/public engagement in relation to the research itself, or the anticipated public benefits of the research outcomes to California and the world. Possible examples of community engagement, not meant to be an exhaustive list, are included in the FAQs.

11. **Contributions to undergraduate education** (~1/2 page; required): Describe the specific activities or outcomes that will enhance undergraduate education at UC. These may include student participation in the research, summer internships, contributions to curriculum, or other components appropriate to the disciplinary and topical areas.

12. **Prior accomplishments** (~1/2 page; if applicable): Established multicampus collaborations that are requesting funding to launch new initiatives or expand their collaborations, or currently funded MRPI/Catalyst projects (with end dates on or before December 31, 2018) that are requesting new funding, must justify their request for renewed systemwide support, and should address why prior systemwide funding has not led to sufficient extramural funding. This justification may include prior accomplishments of the collaboration, or outline a compelling justification for renewal. New collaborations do not need to fill out this section.

## **Review and Selection Criteria**

Reviewers will assess criteria #1-4, below, in the scoring and ranking of all proposals. Additional criteria will be assessed for Program Awards.

1. **Research Excellence and Innovation:** Highest quality research in compelling topics that create or strengthen UC's research capabilities to advance scholarship, training, and knowledge, particularly in areas of strategic importance. Successful proposals clearly demonstrate the potential of the scholarship to position UC and its faculty as innovative leaders addressing topics and problems that impact California, the nation, and the world. Excellence also includes likelihood of impact in the fields or thematic areas identified in the proposal, and feasibility of achieving the goals and outcomes in the award period. Innovation may be demonstrated by interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary scholarship at the cutting edge of two or more fields, or proposed theoretical or applied breakthroughs in important areas of scholarship or innovative technology.

2. Strength of the Collaboration and Systemwide Impact and Benefits: Evaluation of the impact and benefits to the UC system of the proposed collaboration will consider the quality and extent of:

- Genuine engagement and interaction of faculty, researchers, and graduate students from three or more campuses or national laboratories;
- Interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaboration that stimulates systemwide creative processes, and provides access to the best available resources, infrastructure or facilities;
- Likelihood activities will enhance UC's competitiveness in attracting and retaining faculty and graduate students, garnering awards, prizes, honors and/or extramural funding, and other contributions that help position UC for strategic excellence; and
- A governance structure that ensures a balanced opportunity for participation across UC, and/or through increased efficiency as a result of common facilities or administrative support.

3. Importance and Benefit to California: Assessment of the importance of the proposed research to California and the potential for the proposed activities or research outcomes to benefit California or its people in one or more of the following areas: inform policy, identify novel solutions to important problems, and/or provide economic, social, cultural, environmental or other benefits.

4. Quality of Graduate Student Engagement and Training: Assessment of the extent and quality of meaningful engagement by graduate or professional students in innovative research and cutting-edge scholarship, as demonstrated by graduate student support, participation in key research activities and opportunities that advance them towards their degree and successful professional careers.

*Additional Considerations*: The following four additional factors will be considered in evaluating all proposals:

- a. Appropriateness and judiciousness of the proposed budget to achieve proposal aims in the award period, and efficient use of funds
- b. Sufficient campus commitment and administrative capacity to support the proposed activities
- c. Other sources of support, and plans to secure extramural support, if available, to make the multicampus collaboration self-supporting
- d. Issues or concerns related to human subjects, animal use or toxic substances

***Criteria # 5-7 apply explicitly to Program Awards. Activities in these areas may strengthen proposals in the Planning/Pilot Award category, but are not required components.***

5. Public Engagement/Community Collaboration: Successful proposals will engage Californians in the UC research mission in ways that are meaningful to and benefit the research endeavor and provide community benefit. Approaches may include, but are not limited to: community-based participatory research, citizen science, K-12 education and outreach, or other public engagement appropriate to the research scope and activities. Generally, the creation of a community advisory board alone, or enrollment of human research subjects, is not sufficient to demonstrate meaningful community engagement for the purpose of this award.

6. Contributions to Undergraduate Education or Curriculum: Proposals should incorporate research activities that inform or transform curriculum, provide opportunities for undergraduate participation in research, internships, or fieldwork appropriate to the fields and disciplines of the proposal. Strong proposals will demonstrate the impact on education and training of a future generation of scholars and engaged citizens. If summer training programs or internships for UC undergraduates are already in place, funding may be used only to expand the activities in areas consistent with the proposed research (and not to fund the ongoing/existing program).

7. Research Sustainability and Ability to Leverage Extramural Support: Program Award applications from established collaborations, or previously funded MRPI and Catalyst awardees requesting new funding, will also be evaluated on strength of their justification for the need for ongoing systemwide support, and the degree to which the proposal identifies novel directions, or distinct new activities, for ongoing research collaboration. Continued reliance on systemwide support requires a compelling justification regarding why extramural funding is unavailable or insufficient to meet the research needs.

*Funding decisions will result from a competitive peer review of submitted proposals. Recommendations from the review panels will be prioritized by the portfolio panel to establish the balance of funding across the portfolio. Final funding decisions and selection are at the discretion of the office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) in the UC Office of the President. Decisions may not be appealed, but declined proposals may be submitted to future funding competitions without prejudice.*

## **Research Program Oversight and Contacts**

The MRPI funding opportunity is administered by UC Research Initiatives (UCRI) in the Research Grants Program Office at the UC Office of the President. This funding opportunity is among several offered by [UCRI](#).

Awards are contingent on availability of funding, and compliance with all research and reporting requirements. Funded proposals must report annual progress and fiscal expenditures. Future-year funding (beyond the initial payment of selected awards) is contingent on ongoing systemwide funding of the Multicampus Research Program. Funded proposals will be assigned to a UCRI program officer who will serve as the primary program contact.

*Please direct questions to the following contacts:*

*For questions related to program priorities or scope of proposals, contact UCRI program officers Chris Spitzer and Jessica Wu at [UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu)*

*For administrative questions regarding the application process, contact [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu)*

*For technical questions related to use of proposalCENTRAL, email [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) or call 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) Technical support for online submission is available through proposalCENTRAL (Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Please note that from California you must call between 5:00 AM and 2:00 PM).*

## **Attachments**

### Appendix 1: Other RGPO Policies and Pre-Award Requirements

Provides compliance guidelines that will be required of all proposals nominated for funding

### Appendix 2: Instructions for Submission of Letters of Intent

Provides detailed steps for LOI preparation and submission

### Appendix 3: Frequently asked Questions

Provides additional guidance and examples for applicants

*Updated Program Announcements, FAQs and RFP clarifications (if any), will be posted on the UCRI website. To ensure proposals meet all program requirements, PIs and their collaborators are strongly encouraged to check the website for any program updates prior to full proposal submission:*

<http://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/>

## Appendix 1: Other RGPO Policies and Pre-Award Requirements

*The following relevant policies and requirements for awards made by the UCOP Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) apply to all proposals nominated for funding. These requirements are outlined in the formal “pre-funding” notification that will be sent to applicants nominated for funding by the peer review and ranking process, and this appendix may not include all pre-award requirements.*

### **Human Subjects and Material, and Animal Subjects:**

Approvals for use of human subjects and material, animals, and toxic substances are not required at the time of application. When such approvals are applicable to the research, applicants must apply to the appropriate board or committee as soon as possible in order to expedite the start of the research, and must do so within 30 days of notification that an award has been offered. Applicants may formally request an extension of this deadline if justified by specific circumstances of the research. All reasonable efforts must be made to obtain appropriate approvals in a timely fashion. Projects that do not obtain the necessary approvals in a timely manner may have their funding reduced or withdrawn.

For multicampus collaborations, if the research requires IRB approval, we encourage use of the [UC IRB Reliance Registry](#) to streamline the approval process. Please note that each study location is still responsible for obtaining other applicable ancillary approvals such as Conflict of Interest, Radiation Safety, etc. Contact your Campus IRB Reliance Coordinator for more information about the UC IRB reliance process.

### **Publications Acknowledgement and Open Access:**

All scientific publications and other products from a RGPO-funded research project must acknowledge the funding support from UC Office of the President, with reference to the specific funding program (e.g., Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives) and the assigned grant ID number.

RGPO is committed to disseminating research as widely as possible to promote the public benefit. All publications based on funding received from RGPO are subject to the [University’s Open Access Policy](#). To assist the RGPO in disseminating and archiving the articles, the grantee institution and all researchers on the grant will deposit an electronic copy of all publications in [eScholarship](#), UC’s open access repository promptly after publication. Notwithstanding the above, this policy does not in any way prescribe or limit the venue of publication.

### **Deposition of Equipment and Supplies at the End of the Grant**

Equipment purchases made by projects funded by the research program must be made by UC campuses and are the property of the UC Regents. Special permission must be sought in advance to purchase equipment for a non-UC campus or entity. In the rare event it is approved, the disposition of the equipment must follow RGPO rules.

### **Other Requirements**

*Upon request, awardees must supply the following information or documents:*

1. Verification of appointment and Principal Investigator status from an appropriate institutional official.
2. Detailed budgets and justifications for any subcontract(s), if allowed.
3. IRB, IACUC or applications or approvals pertaining to the award.
4. Resolution of any scientific overlap issues with other grants or pending applications.
5. Resolution of any proposal review panel recommendations.

*All grant recipients must abide by other applicable pre- and post-award requirements pertaining to Cost Share, Indirect Cost Rates, Monitoring & Payment of Subcontracts, Conflict of Interest, Disclosure of Violations, Return of Interest, Equipment and Residual Supplies, Records Retention, Open Access, and Reporting.*



## **Appendix 2: Letter of Intent Submission Instructions 2019 UC Multicampus Research Funding Opportunities Planning/Pilot Awards and Program Awards**

The University of California (UC) office of Research and Graduate Studies is pleased to provide applicant instructions for submission of a Letter of Intent to the university-led *Call for Proposals for UC Multicampus Research Funding Opportunities* announced on April 25, 2018. Submission and approval of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to submit a full proposal. Once the LOI is approved, applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. LOIs must be submitted **by May 24, 2018 before 12:00 noon Pacific Time**. We encourage early submission of LOIs. Please note: LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline.

### **OVERVIEW OF ONLINE LOI SUBMISSION PROCESS**

The LOI must be submitted using the online system, proposalCENTRAL (pC) at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com/>. Applicants may submit LOIs via the online system anytime between April 25, 2018 and May 24, 2018. The LOI submission must be **complete** (not merely initiated) by the 12:00 noon PT deadline. Therefore, plan ahead in preparing your submission, and allow a minimum of two hours to receive confirmation of your successful submission by the deadline.

#### **Step 1: ‘Applicant PI’ Designation**

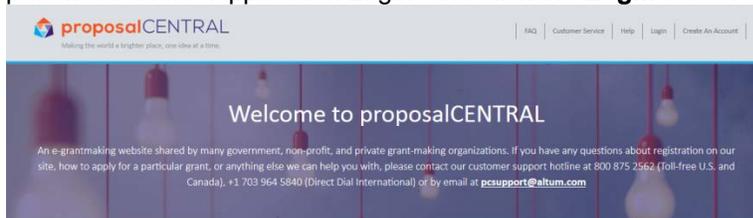
LOIs must identify an Applicant Principal Investigator (Applicant PI) and host campus for administering the award. The Applicant PI must have PI status at a UC campus and should be the Lead PI for the proposal. The Applicant PI should submit the LOI on behalf of the collaboration and is the responsible PI for the full proposal. The Applicant PI is identified in Section 4 of the LOI, as detailed below.

Each collaborating campus must identify one site lead called a Collaborating Principal Investigator (Co-PI). Co-PIs are identified in Section 6 of the LOI, as detailed below. Participation by the national laboratories and other UC research entities in the proposed activities is encouraged where it enhances the research objectives. However, these investigators may not serve as the Applicant PI unless they have campus PI status and apply through their UC campus affiliation.

#### **Step 2: Applicant Registration with proposalCENTRAL**

Applicants must register as users of pC to submit an LOI and complete a proposal <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com/>.

**Registered Users:** Applicants who have already registered with pC should enter their user name and password under “Application Login” and click the **Login** button on the pC homepage.



Existing users log in here

New users register here

**New users:** Applicants who are not registered users of pC should click the **Create one now** button under “Need an account?” and follow the instructions. Every applicant must first register for an account; pC will then send an email for the applicant to confirm the account. After logging into pC and confirming the account, the applicant will be prompted to add a primary institution. Applicants will be able to search for their UC campuses by entering search terms in some or all of the search fields. (For example: If you are searching for "University of California, Los Angeles", you can enter ‘Los Angeles’ or use ‘UCLA’ as search terms.) All UC campuses have confirmed institution profiles in pC under “Regents of the University of California.” Below is a list of UC campuses and their corresponding profile names in pC. When selecting your institution, please ensure that the “Institution Name” matches the profile name listed below, and that the “Institution Status” is listed as “Confirmed”.

| Campus | pC Profile Name                                                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UCB    | The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley                           |
| UCD    | The Regents of the University of California (University of California Davis)    |
| UCI    | The Regents of the University of California (Irvine)                            |
| UCLA   | The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles                        |
| UCM    | The Regents of the University of California, Merced                             |
| UCR    | The Regents of the University of California, Riverside (UCR)                    |
| UCSD   | The Regents of the University of California, San Diego                          |
| UCSF   | The Regents of the University of California, San Francisco (Contracts & Grants) |
| UCSB   | The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara                      |
| UCSC   | The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz                         |

### Step 3: LOI Submission

- To submit an LOI, log into pC and select the **Grant Opportunities** tab. Then click on **Filter by Grant Maker** and scroll to select **University of California Research Initiatives**.
- Select the **“MRPI Planning/Pilot Award”** or the **“MRPI Program Award,”** as appropriate.
- On the right, click the **Apply Now** button to begin the LOI submission process and follow the instructions. Requirements for the LOI or other Request for Proposals (RFP) terms and conditions can always be obtained by accessing the RFP document, which is available on the [MRPI website](#).

The screenshot shows the proposalCENTRAL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and the tagline "Making the world a brighter place, one idea at a time." Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for "pCdrive", "Manage Proposals", "Professional Profile", "Institution Profile", and "Grant Opportunities". A red box with an arrow points to the "Grant Opportunities" tab, with the annotation "1. Click on 'Grant Opportunities'".

Below the navigation bar, there is a filter section. A red box with an arrow points to the "Filter by Grant Maker" dropdown menu, which is currently set to "University of California Research Initiatives". A red box with an arrow points to this dropdown menu, with the annotation "2. Filter List by 'University of California Research Initiatives'".

The main content area displays a table of grant opportunities. The table has columns for "Grant Maker", "Programs (Click for Guidelines)", "LOI Deadline", "Proposal Deadline", "Contact Information", and "Apply". Two rows are visible, both for "University of California Research Initiatives". The first row is for "MRPI Planning/Pilot Award" with an "Apply Now" button. The second row is for "MRPI Program Award" with an "Apply Now" button. A red box with an arrow points to the "Apply Now" button in the second row, with the annotation "3. Click 'Apply Now' for the appropriate program".

## STEP BY STEP: KEY SECTIONS FOR LOI SUBMISSION

Additional details on each section of the online LOI submission form are provided below. Please note: the numbered sections listed below directly correspond to the numbered LOI sections in the left hand column of the LOI page on the pC web site. To view the LOI page, please select **Apply Now** for the appropriate award. If you have already started the LOI process and would like to make changes or complete your submission, your LOI will be listed in the “Manage Proposals” tab.

**LOI Sections**

Complete each section of the LOI below. Click the Next button to save and go to the next section or click directly on the sections listed below.

- 1 Title Page
- 2 Download Templates & Instructions
- 3 Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
- 4 Applicant/PI
- 5 Applicant Institution
- 6 Site Lead - Each Collaborating Campus/Institution
- 7 Responses to Criteria
- 8 Abstract, Fields, & Campuses
- 9 Reviewer Recommendations
- 10 Validate
- 11 View LOI PDF
- 12 Submit

**University of California MRPI**

LOI To: University of California Research Initiatives  
Program: MRPI Program Award  
Title (Applicant): Enter a title here, then press Save.  
Deadline: 5/24/2018 3:00:00 PM (U.S. Eastern Time)

**Title Page**

Next>> Save Print Cancel Exit

Enter a title for your application, then press Save.  
Do not exceed 60 characters, including spaces. Quotation marks not allowed. Press Next to save any changes and proceed to the next proposal section.

\* Project Title Enter a title here, then press Save.

\* Is this a renewal?  Yes  No

Estimated Budget and Project Period

\* Enter the estimated total amount requested

Current Collaboration Status

### Section 1: Title Page

This section must be completed first. Upon completion of Section 1, the remaining sections listed below may be completed in any order, and do not need to be completed in one session; however, please be sure to save your work after each entry.

**Title:** Please enter the project title here. Do not exceed 60 characters. No special characters allowed.

**Renewal:** For Program Awards only - provide a response to the question “Is this a renewal?”

**Estimated Budget:** Enter the estimated total amount requested. Indicate the proposed budget in whole dollar amount. Do not use cents.

**Project Period:** For Planning/Pilot Awards only - enter the anticipated project period (1 or 2 years).

**Current Collaboration Status:** Please provide the name(s) of any existing MRU/ORU/Institute/Center that is affiliated with your proposed MRPI collaboration. You must enter “None” if your proposed collaboration has no existing affiliations. Names of multiple centers may be entered in the same textbox, separated by a semi-colon (;).

### Concurrent UCOP Funding:

- Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “Has the proposed collaboration or project received prior MRPI or Catalyst funding?”
  - If yes, please indicate the Award year in the textbox provided

- ii. Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “Aside from MRPI or Catalyst funding, does this collaboration or project currently receive any other sources of UCOP (systemwide) research funds?”
  - a. If yes, provide the Source(s) of Funding, Total Annual Amount, and End Dates, if any
- iii. Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “At this time, do you anticipate that during the proposed award period your collaboration will receive any concurrent funding from UCOP (systemwide) research funds/programs?”
  - a. If yes, provide the Source(s) of Funding, and Total Annual Amount and Number of Years

**Section 2: Download Templates & Instructions**

This section includes downloadable LOI submission instructions.

**Section 3: Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal**

This section allows applicants to designate others, for example a Collaborating Investigator, to access their profile or proposal(s) to assist with proposal writing or submission.

**Section 4: Applicant/PI**

This section requires the identification of the Applicant PI. In addition to the applicant’s profile, provide a response to the following questions:

- i. Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “Do you, as a Lead PI, or do any of your collaborating site leads (Co-PIs) or Co-Investigators have current funding from an MRPI or Catalyst Award?”
  - a. If yes, indicate the approved end date of the current MRPI or Catalyst funding
- ii. Select Yes to agree to the statement “I affirm as PI that I am participating in only one MRPI LOI this competition cycle.”
- iii. Select Yes to agree to the statement “I affirm that all proposed Co-PIs (site leads) and Co-Investigators for this collaboration are participating in only one MRPI proposal this competition cycle. (See the RFP for definitions of these roles.)

**Section 5: Applicant Institution**

See information about how to select your Applicant Institution under the section “Step 2: Applicant Registration with proposalCENTRAL” above.

**Section 6: Site Lead - Each Collaborating Campus/Institution**

Provide contact information for the lead Co-PI from each participating site. For each lead Co-PI entry, you must provide the full ranked title the person assumes at his/her institution (e.g., Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor). List only one site lead per participating site – do not include other collaborating investigators or other grant personnel.

**Section 7: Responses to Criteria**

Please briefly summarize how your proposed collaboration addresses each of the following components. LOIs will be reviewed for compliance with the eligibility criteria and will be prioritized based on adherence to program goals and funding priorities. Please refer to the RFP for additional guidance. Information must be entered as text only (scientific notations, special characters, fonts, and other richtext formatting cannot be saved or displayed).

|                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FOR BOTH MECHANISMS (PLANNING/PILOT AND PROGRAM):</b>                                                                                      |                                                  |
| * Briefly justify the faculty team and composition of the multicampus collaboration, including the use or access to shared resources, if any. | Limit Response to 1,300 characters (~200 words). |
| * Briefly summarize the components of (or approach to) graduate engagement in research.                                                       | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| <b>FOR PLANNING/PILOT ONLY:</b>                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| * Briefly describe the importance and benefit of the proposed research to California and beyond.                                              | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |

|                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FOR PROGRAM AWARDS ONLY:</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                  |
| * Briefly summarize the components of public engagement, including any specific groups, organizations, or roles, and the benefit of the proposed research to California. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| * Briefly summarize the approach to undergraduate engagement in research or components that will enhance education or curricula.                                         | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |

### Section 8: Abstract, Fields, & Campuses

**Abstract:** In the text box, briefly describe the proposed research scope and activities, scholarly contributions and expected outcomes in non-scientific terms appropriate for a general audience. This summary description is limited to 2,500 characters including spaces (approximately 400 words). Information must be entered as text only. (Scientific notations, special characters, fonts, and other rich-text formatting cannot be saved or displayed. The text will automatically wrap: Carriage returns should be used for the start of a new paragraph but should NOT be used at the end of each line). The summary is non-confidential, and may be published or circulated by the program.

**Primary Research Field:** Please select a primary research field from the list below that most closely describes your field of research. A selection is required. The categories are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Public Policy
- International and Area Studies
- Biological, Life and Health Sciences
- Environmental and Earth Sciences
- Physical and Computational Sciences

**Secondary Research Field:** If applicable, please select a secondary research field from the list below that most closely describes your field of research. A selection is optional. The categories are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Public Policy
- International and Area Studies
- Biological, Life and Health Sciences
- Environmental and Earth Sciences
- Physical and Computational Sciences

**Thematic Area:** Please select up to 2 thematic areas that describe your proposal, if any of the following are applicable. This selection will only be used for administrative planning, and is not a comprehensive list of eligible topics. Please note a response is optional.

- 01 Agriculture / Biotechnology
- 02 California Studies
- 03 Climate Studies / Climate Change
- 04 Cultural Studies / Ethnic Studies
- 05 Data Systems
- 06 Development Studies / Regional Economies
- 07 Disparities Research
- 08 Education
- 09 Energy
- 10 Engineering / Technology
- 11 Food /Nutrition / Food Systems
- 12 Health Systems / Public Health
- 13 Immigration / Migration Studies
- 14 Interdisciplinary Studies
- 15 Literature / Language
- 16 Media Studies / Communication
- 17 Nanotechnology /Materials Research
- 18 Neuroscience / Cognition
- 19 Physical Sciences

- 20 Policy Studies / Government
- 21 Sustainability
- 22 Urban and Regional Planning / Built Environment / Transit
- 23 Visual / Digital / Performing Arts
- 24 Women's Studies / Gender and Sexuality
- 25 Other / Not Listed

**Campus:** Please select all UC campuses, laboratories, and medical centers involved in this collaboration. A response is required. Please note a minimum of 3 UC campuses must be involved (Labs and other non-campus entities do not count toward this minimum requirement).

- Campus - UC Berkeley
- Campus - UC Davis
- Campus - UC Irvine
- Campus - UC Los Angeles
- Campus - UC Merced
- Campus - UC Riverside
- Campus - UC San Diego
- Campus - UC San Francisco
- Campus - UC Santa Barbara
- Campus - UC Santa Cruz
- Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Hastings School of Law
- Lab - Lawrence Berkeley
- Lab - Lawrence Livermore
- Lab - Los Alamos
- Other UC Research Institution(s)

### **Section 9: Reviewer Recommendations**

UC Research and Graduate Studies will assemble the panels, assign reviewers, and make final determinations regarding panel composition. You may suggest qualified individuals for our consideration who could provide reviews of your full proposal without conflicts of interest. Please list the name, address, email address and telephone number of reviewers. In addition, you may identify scientific peers who you do not want to review your proposal.

All requests to include or exclude reviewers will remain confidential. To add a reviewer for inclusion/exclusion, click on the plus symbol. A pop-up box will appear for you to enter the reviewer's contact information. Under the pull-down menu, select "include" or "exclude" reviewer from review. If you choose to "exclude" a reviewer, you **MUST** type in an explanation in the text area

### **Section 10: Validate**

This section enables applicants to verify that the LOI is ready for submission. The system will notify applicants of any outstanding information required to complete the submission process.

### **Section 11: View LOI PDF**

Please note that a signed signature page is **NOT** required as part of the LOI submission. This section is made available so applicants may print or download their LOI submission. Click on the "Print Signature Pages with Attachments" button to view, print, or download the completed LOI. A signed signature page will be required at the full application stage, should the LOI is approved for full application submission.

### **Section 12: Submit**

Click on the "Submit" button to submit your LOI to the program. Following the submission of an LOI to pC, applicants will receive an e-mail message confirming receipt of the application. If you do not receive this confirmation within 2 hours, please contact pC tech support.

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## Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding the content or eligibility of proposals for the RFP, please contact:

- UC Research Initiatives at [UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu) regarding program content and eligibility
- Research Grants Program Office at [RGPOGrants@ucop.edu](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu) or by phone at 510-987-9386 regarding application and pre/post-award procedures.

For the most up-to-date application and review cycle information refer to the following website:  
<http://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi/index.html>

Technical questions regarding proposalCentral submission should be directed to their customer support at 800-875-2562 or [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com). Please note their hours are 8:30am – 5pm ET/ 5:30am – 2pm PT.

**Appendix 3:**  
**UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
Version Dated: May 11, 2018

***Please refer to the 2019 Request for Proposals (RFP) for program requirements.***

*This is a supplement to the 2019 Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives RFP, and is intended to provide additional guidance to applicants. Based on questions we receive, it may be updated periodically. Applicants are responsible for checking the UC Research Initiatives ([UCRI](#)) website for updates.*

**How to Apply:**

All application materials must be submitted online via [proposalCENTRAL](#). On the proposalCENTRAL home page (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp>), log in to your account (or create one if you are a new user), click “Create New Proposal”, and then select “University of California – Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) Planning/Pilot Award” *or* “University of California – Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) Program Award” as appropriate. **Applicants are required to submit an LOI as the first step in the application process.** The full proposal materials are available only after approval of the LOI. Additional instructions regarding LOI submission are available in Appendix 2 of the RFP dated April 25, 2018.

**Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time**  
**Full Proposals are due Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time**  
(Please note that deadlines appear as 3:00 PM Eastern Time in proposalCENTRAL)

**Eligibility and Collaborative Structure**

**1. Who can submit a proposal for this funding opportunity?**

Aside from the exceptions noted below, any academic appointee who holds Principal Investigator (PI) status at one of the 10 UC campuses [Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara or Santa Cruz] is eligible to submit a proposal on behalf of the collaborative team. For guidelines on PI status, contact your UC campus Office of Research, or refer to Section 1-530 of the [UC Contracts and Grants Manual](#).

Exceptions: Academic personnel whose primary role is in university-wide, campus, or school administration above the level of Dean are not eligible to serve as PIs, Co-PIs, or other grant Key Personnel. In addition, any PI, Co-PI or Co-Investigator who has a concurrent MRPI or Catalyst award is ineligible to participate in a proposal. A PI or Co-PI funded by a concurrent UC Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) award is ineligible to serve as a PI or Co-PI on any MRPI award. Concurrent award refers to currently funded projects with end dates after December 31, 2018.

**2. How many collaborators are required for a proposal?**

Each proposal must have a minimum of three collaborators, each from a different UC campus. In addition to participation from the three campuses, proposals may include additional collaborators from the same or other UC campuses, or from other systemwide research entities. Examples of other systemwide collaborators include researchers from any of the UC-affiliated national laboratories, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, any of the five UC medical centers, and Hastings School of Law. Each collaborating site must identify one and only one Co-PI (site lead)

with PI status at their home institution. Additional collaborators who make significant contributions to the research may be identified as Co-Investigators, or another appropriate project title.

**3. Can I participate in more than one proposal?**

No. Any individual identified as Key Personnel (PI, Co-PI or Co-I) may participate in one and only one proposal. The proposal may be submitted to one and only one award type.

**4. I am involved in a current MRPI or Catalyst award that extends past January 1, 2019, but I do not draw salary from that award. Can I be involved in a proposal?**

No. If you are Key Personnel (PI, Co-PI or Co-I) on a current MRPI or Catalyst Award with an end date after December 31, 2018, you are not eligible to participate in a new proposal, regardless of whether or not you draw salary from the award.

**5. Are researchers from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, or Los Alamos National Lab eligible to apply?**

The Lead PI must have PI status at one of the ten UC campuses. Researchers from any of the three UC-affiliated national labs may apply as a Lead PI only if they have PI status at a UC campus and apply through that UC campus. UC national lab scientists who do not have PI status at a UC campus may serve as Co-PIs or Co-Investigators (see question 2). Please note that MRPI awards do not include indirect cost recovery. Lab indirect costs may be covered by matching funds from non-UC sources or through cost-sharing by the labs.

**6. I am a Cooperative Extension Advisor with the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. How can I participate in this collaborative research opportunity?**

Cooperative Extension Advisors should collaborate with a Cooperative Extension specialist based at the Berkeley, Riverside or Davis campuses, or with other faculty on any of the 10 campuses who can serve as the Lead PI for the proposal.

**7. The RFP mentions faculty collaboration across career stages. Does that mean we have to have one PI at each level of the ladder-rank to be eligible?**

No. Participation in this proposal is not limited to ladder-rank or Academic Senate-eligible appointments (see the Eligibility and Exclusions section of the RFP), and there is no required team composition for the proposal. The intent of the faculty collaboration requirement is to encourage faculty and researchers at all levels to collaborate and to provide mentorship and leadership opportunities for early-career faculty in to the context of UC multicampus research. The composition of the team itself is at the discretion of the collaborators and should be one that positions the project for success. The proposal should describe how the goal of meaningful faculty collaboration across career stages will be realized within the context of their proposed activities and research scope.

**8. Can non-UC researchers collaborate on an MRPI project?**

The intent of this funding opportunity is to catalyze UC multicampus and systemwide collaboration and to leverage the distributed excellence of the UC system. UC PIs must lead the collaborations, and should find experts across the UC system with whom to collaborate. Community partners from within California may participate as part of the public/community engagement components. In rare cases, if technical expertise, resources, or facilities are unavailable at any UC campus or UC-managed national lab, the PI may request funds for a subcontract to obtain specific services or expertise from outside UC. This request must be accompanied by an explanation about why the

expertise or facilities cannot be identified within UC. If research collaborators from outside the UC system are proposed, the application must identify the funding from other sources they will contribute to the project to support their participation in the proposed collaboration.

**9. Can we submit a proposal with a lead PI who is located at a different campus than the proposed host campus?**

The host campus is the location from which the proposal is submitted, and where the award is administered. Typically the host campus for the collaboration is the Lead PI's home campus. Exceptions to this organizational model are rare. Requests for exceptions must have the concurrence of the VCRs from both the proposed host campus and lead PI's home campus. Justification for an alternate structure must be provided in the LOI and approved in advance of the full application submission. Collaborations requesting an exception must describe and justify their alternate model, indicate their means of logistical support, describe plans to ensure appropriate oversight for the project and, where applicable, document support from relevant campuses. In the event the host campus is not the lead PI's home campus, the proposal must be submitted by the campus where the award will be administered, and this campus will be designated the host campus.

**Funding Restrictions and Other Sources of Support:**

**10. Should I apply for a Planning/Pilot Award or a Program Award?**

Each of the two award types have specific eligibility, duration, funding, and other constraints. Please review the RFP carefully and identify the award type that matches the status, research needs, and other circumstances of your proposed collaboration. Key personnel may participate in only one proposal so be sure to verify the eligibility of all proposed participants prior to submitting the LOI.

**11. I received a MRPI Planning Award in 2017, and now I want to request a new planning award this cycle with a different collaborative team. Do I have to apply in the Program Award category?**

No. You are not eligible to apply in either category if your current MRPI or Catalyst Award has an end date after December 31, 2018. However, if your current funding ends by December 31, 2018, and you want to launch *a new collaboration in a new topic area with a new team of collaborators*, you may apply again in the Planning/Pilot category. However, there cannot be overlap with the previously funded project. If you want to extend the collaboration with additional partners or an expanded scope, then you should apply for the Program Award.

**12. Our multicampus collaboration receives systemwide funding from other (non-MRPI, non-Catalyst) sources. Can we also apply for MRPI funding to undertake a special project?**

The intent of this funding opportunity is to support *unique* collaborations across a broad portfolio of University research and scholarship, and to launch new collaborations in path-breaking thematic or topical areas that may position them for extramural support. Multicampus collaborations, including MRUs, ORUs, and other UC research entities, that receive ongoing or non-competed systemwide funding are ineligible to apply. Multicampus collaborations that receive competed or term-limited grant funding from other UCOP sources may apply for MRPI funding for a distinct and unique research undertaking, but receive lower priority regardless of scientific merit. All sources of UCOP funding must be disclosed in both the LOI and the full proposal, and funding overlap or support for ongoing operational activities is not allowed.

**13. My MRPI or Catalyst award has an end date of December 31, 2018, but I expect the project to have remaining funds beyond the current end date. Can I submit a proposal for a new award in this competition?**

If you have current MRPI or Catalyst funding with an award end date on or before December 31, 2018 at the time of the full proposal submission on August 2, 2018, you are eligible to apply as long as you meet all of the other eligibility criteria. *However, you may not receive concurrent funding.* Therefore, if your proposal is nominated for funding, you will have to provide a full accounting of all expenditures on your current award and return unexpended funds before a new award can be approved. Details will be provided in the pre-award notification.

**Proposal Submission and Application Guidelines**

**14. Does the Letter of Intent need to be submitted through the campus Sponsored Projects or Contracts & Grants Office?**

No. Unlike full proposals, LOIs do not need to be submitted through the C&G/SPO. A signature from an institutional signing official is not required for LOI submission.

**15. We missed the deadline to submit a LOI, can we still submit a full proposal without the LOI?**

No. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept LOIs after the deadline, and only applicants who are invited to submit a proposal based on their LOI may proceed to the full proposal stage.

**16. How will LOIs be evaluated and selected?**

LOIs will be evaluated for responsiveness to the RFP in three areas: 1) eligibility and completeness; 2) compliance with program requirements; and 3) strength of alignment with the program goals and funding priorities. Scholarly merit will not be evaluated at the LOI stage. LOIs that are not well aligned with the intended scope or required components of this program may not be accepted.

**17. My LOI was accepted, and our team received an invitation to submit a full proposal. Is the LOI binding or can we make changes?**

The LOI must fairly present your proposed collaboration and activities, research topic and approximate total budget, and full proposals should fall within the scope of the original LOI. Updates, refinements and adjustments may be made to the proposed scope, abstract, and activities when the full proposal is submitted, and additional collaborators or campuses may be added. Once the LOI is approved, the host campus and Lead PI cannot be changed in the full proposal. Note: Compliance with the eligibility criteria will be reviewed again at the full proposal stage, and only eligible proposals will be forwarded for review. Eligible proposals that diverge significantly in scope, direction or budget requested from the approved LOI may be less competitive for funding.

**18. Do we need to submit a letter of support from the host campus Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) as part of the application?**

No. Proposals must be submitted through the host campus' Sponsored Projects or Contracts & Grants Office, and this serves as documentation of the VCR's approval. Letters of commitment may be included in cases where the use of or access to a lab/resource/facility may be limited or require permission or concurrence from a decision-maker for that resource or facility.

## **Award Amounts and Budget Requests**

### **19. Can you provide any guidance on what size budget request would be considered reasonable for each award type?**

We anticipate approximately \$4 million total annual funding will be available for new awards across *all* categories and award types. Budgets in both categories should be *judicious and well justified* in relation to the proposed activities and potential impact, demonstrate efficient use of funds, and include a justification that demonstrates knowledge of the reasonable and necessary costs to ensure success of the proposed activities. This means that some budget requests *in either award category* may reasonably request less than the \$150,000 annual maximum allowed for Planning/Pilot Awards. In the previous cycle, the range of annual award amounts was \$54,000-\$712,000, and the *median* award size in the Program Award category was \$405,000 annually. These data are provided as general information only and future funding decisions and award ranges will be based on the merit and ranking of the proposals, overall portfolio distribution and the degree to which meritorious proposals fulfill the overall program priorities and goals.

### **20. Can MRPI funds be used to support undergraduate students as well as graduate students?**

Funding may be used to engage students in research training, internship activities, or other educational or curricular enhancement related to the project scope and topic. Award funds may not be used for student financial aid or general education activities.

## **Other Proposal Components**

### **21. What kind of research activities are expected for undergraduates in these proposals?**

A required component of the Program Award is to identify specific contributions to undergraduate education through the research endeavor. This requirement may take many forms as appropriate to the research scope, activities and expected impact. Some examples include (but are not limited to) active participation in the data collection itself, training, internship or fieldwork opportunities, or enhancements to undergraduate curriculum. The collaborative team should propose activities or components that will be both meaningful and likely successful within the context of the type of research proposed.

### **22. What is meant by public/community engagement in the proposal requirements, and what kinds of activities would fulfill this goal?**

A key component of the Program Award is to catalyze public engagement in the UC research mission through opportunities for community collaborative research, citizen science, or other community outreach, education and engagement with the California public. Depending on the type of research, this component can take various forms, and the opportunities for public engagement and community benefit should be appropriate to the research scope and topic. The most effective and meaningful activities will be those that are well-integrated into, and strengthen the quality of, the research effort while also advancing the education and service missions of the University. For more information, please refer to Review Criterion 5 in the Review and Selection Criteria section of the RFP.

We offer some possible examples of community participation and public engagement here for illustration purposes only, but note that this is neither an exhaustive nor a prioritized list:

- Community collaborative or community participatory research in topics relevant to social, economic, health or cultural issues
- Involvement or participation of K-12 California schools or community groups in ecological data-gathering, urban gardens and nutrition programs or the like
- Involving the California public in analysis of mass data sets that may reveal patterns or unique insights, or in gathering disbursed publicly-available data that would not otherwise be accessible
- Engaging communities in local problem-solving, urban or community planning, or after-school research-enhanced enrichment opportunities
- Education and outreach activities connecting the California public to museums, archives, observatories, or historical sites with research relevance
- Education and outreach to populations or communities not already benefiting from healthcare delivery or prevention programs in the proposed research area may be considered
- Agricultural extension activities may be considered if they create new education and outreach services to communities as a function of the proposed research
- Activities aimed at engaging *new*, hard-to-reach, or underserved populations in research-related health education, cooperative extension or other research-informed community benefit. (Funding must support new activities or communities relevant to the research, and may not provide core support for existing programs or services.)

*Important additional requirements and considerations:*

Note on Data Analysis and Integrity: If the public is involved in generating or analyzing research data, the full proposal should explain how the collaboration will ensure the integrity of the data and improve the quality of the research or strengthen the analysis, as appropriate.

Note on Human Participants: Please note that enrollment of human research subjects or the delivery of patient care does *not* constitute public engagement for the purposes of this opportunity, and clinical trials research may not be proposed. Human research subjects whose participation is primarily (or limited to) providing survey data, biological specimens or other data for the purposes of the scientific analysis do not constitute community collaborators.

Note on Community Advisory Boards: Community advisory boards may enhance research engagement and community benefit, and therefore constitute a component of your proposed public engagement activities. However, the convening of these boards alone, without additional active public or community engagement in the research, or research-related education or outreach activities, is unlikely to provide sufficient evidence of meaningful community engagement for the purposes of this award.