

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - AWARD YEAR 2023

v. March 16, 2022

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 inter-disciplinary areas; enhance education and training; inform policy; and benefit California and its people. The competition is open to all fields of scholarship. Applicants will be asked to indicate which disciplines or interdisciplinary or thematic areas best describe the proposed collaboration. Proposals must be submitted by UC PIs. The award start date is January 1, 2023.

This opportunity includes two award types: 1) Planning/Pilot awards (1-2 years) and 2) Program awards (2-4 years). Planning/Pilot awards are open only to *new* multicampus or systemwide collaborations. Program Awards are open to both new and established collaborations as well as prior recipients of MRPI Planning/Pilot awards. Applicants may apply for *only one* of the two award types, and key personnel may participate in *only one* proposal. Both award types require the participation of at least three UC campuses, and may include collaboration with one or more UC-managed national laboratory. 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. Abstracts for currently MRPI-funded projects can be viewed on the UC Research Initiatives website.

We anticipate approximately \$16 million in available funding for new awards across all categories and award types. Past MRPI competitions have been highly competitive, eliciting over 200 Letters of Intent, and yielding funding success rates between 6-15%. To ensure proposals meet eligibility requirements and fulfill program priorities, an approved Letters of Intent (LOI) is required to proceed to full proposal. LOIs will require an outline of the proposed project and identification of the Applicant PI and each collaborating campus site lead (Co-PI) at time of submission. *All components of the LOI, including the Applicant PI and each proposed Co-PI, must individually and collectively meet all eligibility criteria in order for the LOI to be determined eligible and advanced to full proposal.* Interested applicants are urged to plan adequate time to form the collaborative team and compile all required LOI information prior to the LOI submission deadline. Late or incomplete LOI submissions will not be accepted.

LOIs and full proposals must be submitted through the [SmartSimple](#) online system. Please review the RFP and submission instructions carefully. All proposals must conform to the requirements of the final RFP, and (where they differ), not to prior versions of the RFP. It is the applicant's responsibility to check the [UC Research Initiatives website](#) for any program updates prior to proposal submission.

Key Dates

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|---------------------------------|--|
| RFP Release and Announcement: | Wednesday, March 16, 2022 |
| Applicant Webinar: | Visit our website for April Dates and Registration Information |
| Letters of Intent (LOI) Due: | Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time |
| Notification of LOI Decision: | Monday, June 6, 2022 (expected) |
| Full Proposals Due: | Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time |
| Notification of Review Outcome: | Monday, December 5, 2022 (expected) |
| Award Start Date: | January 1, 2023 |

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 UC and California and serve as a resource for the UC system. Proposed 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, MRPI awards should be directed to research that fulfills the following three principles:

- 1) Enhance UC’s systemwide research capacity, influence, and advantage by providing access to the facilities, resources and opportunities available across the UC system.
- 2) Enhance multicampus collaborations, and foster multicampus engagement, in order to achieve outcomes not available through (or duplicative of) a single campus and discipline.
- 3) Mutually benefit 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
- Innovative or multidisciplinary research in emerging fields of study that could increase UC’s research competitiveness.

All proposals, in both Program and Planning/Pilot categories, should include the following elements:

- Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that is novel, compelling and innovative;
- Collaboration of *at least* three UC campuses (additional eligible UC locations are encouraged);
- Genuine engagement and interaction of faculty and researchers across career stages;
- Meaningful research and training opportunities for graduate students; and
- Plans for obtaining extramural funding to support ongoing research activities beyond the award period.

The MRPI awards are intended to fund *unique* collaborations not otherwise supported at the systemwide level. Collaborations that receive concurrent funding from *other* UCOP systemwide programs or designated state funds must disclose that support in their proposals, and that funding may be considered in the MRPI funding decision regardless of merit. Please review the specific scope and intent of each award type summarized below.

Award Type Scope and Intent: Planning/Pilot Awards

Award Duration: 1 or 2 years

Funding Request: \$150,000/year maximum

Restrictions: Non-renewable award open to *new* multicampus research collaborations only.
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, transdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaborations, or multicampus collaborations that have not previously received MRPI, Organized Research Unit (ORU) or Multicampus Research Unit (MRU) support. Successful proposals will demonstrate the impact and benefit of this novel 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.

Examples of Planning/Pilot awards could 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 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, 3 or 4 years

Funding Request: Judicious and commensurate with proposed scope and timeframe

Restrictions: Non-renewable award open to both new and established multicampus research collaborations
See Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria for additional restrictions

Intent: To stimulate novel and compelling multicampus or systemwide research. Program awards may support either new interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaborations, or established multicampus endeavors that propose significant *new* contributions to advancing the UC systemwide research mission (examples below). Program awards demonstrably enhance UC's research impact through cutting-edge scholarship, genuine multicampus engagement, comprehensive opportunities for graduate student support and training, inclusion of faculty across career stages, clearly defined public engagement, and distinct benefit to UC and California.

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

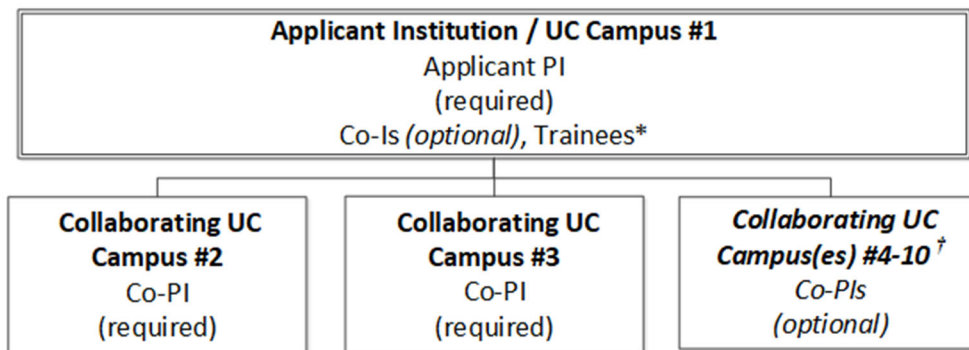
- Public engagement and benefit such as community collaboration, citizen science, or other outreach or education (details and examples provided in the FAQs); and
- Contributions to undergraduate education and training, which may include research internships, contributions to curriculum or other components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

Examples of Program awards could 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 clearly distinct new initiatives or expand their collaborations into new areas or bring in new UC collaborators and require systemwide funding to achieve these goals. Applicants in this category may be prior MRPI Planning/Pilot award recipients who are eligible to apply for a Program Award, or other pre-existing multicampus research entities that have not previously received MRPI funding. See Eligibility and Exclusions for more details.

Structure of an MRPI Collaboration

MRPI proposals require the collaboration of at least three UC campuses, and may also include additional collaborating sites within the UC system. Each site must have one and only one Principal Investigator (at the Applicant Institution) or Co-Principal Investigator (at the collaborating campuses/sites). The diagram below shows the research team structure for MRPI awards. Please see the “Eligibility and Exclusions” section for definitions and eligibility requirements of the research team members.



* Each location may have additional Co-Is or Trainees

† Each additional UC campus or eligible site has one and only one Co-PI

Eligibility and Exclusions

All proposals must conform to these eligibility and exclusion requirements. Adherence to these requirements will be reviewed at the LOI stage. All components of the LOI, including the Applicant PI and each proposed Co-PI, must individually and collectively meet all eligibility criteria in order for the LOI to be determined eligible and advanced to full proposal. The Applicant PI and the Co-PI from each collaborating UC campus are considered core members of the proposal team and may not be modified after approval of the LOI.

1. **Applicant Institution Eligibility:** Proposals must be submitted by the Contracts and Grants or Sponsored Projects Office of the identified Applicant UC campus. The Applicant Institution 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 Applicant Institution 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 labs, the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Hastings School of Law.

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 Investigators and Project Roles:** Each proposal must identify one Applicant PI (the “PI”) who holds principal investigator status at the Applicant Institution. The PI is responsible for the overall project coordination and research oversight. Each additional collaborating UC campus or site must identify one (and only one) Co-PI site lead who holds principal investigator status at that location. The Co-PIs are responsible for research oversight at their locations. For guidelines on UC PI status, contact your campus research office, or refer to Section 1-530 of the [UC Contract and Grant Manual](#). Additional collaborating investigators (Co-Is) at the Applicant Institution or collaborating sites may be identified if they contribute substantively to the proposed research.

Exclusions and Limitations: An individual may participate as key personnel (i.e., PI, Co-PI and Co-I) in one and only one proposal submitted this competition round. To ensure broad participation of UC faculty in

the MRPI funding opportunity, a PI, Co-PI, or Co-I on any *concurrently* funded MRPI Award (i.e., current award end date *after* December 31, 2022) 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 as a Co-I in the proposal must be on a research topic 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.

3. Eligibility by each Award Type: Please review the scope and intent of each award type described above. MRPI awards are intended to fund *unique* collaborations not otherwise supported at the systemwide level. New collaborations are eligible to apply for either a Planning/Pilot Award or a Program Award. Established collaborations and previously-funded MRPI Planning/Pilot award recipients with award end dates on or before December 31, 2022, may apply for funding in the category of Program Awards only.

Exclusions and Limitations: Planning/Pilot and Program Awards are non-renewable. Currently funded MRPI Planning/Pilot Award recipients with project end dates of December 31, 2022 or earlier that would like to expand their collaboration *must* apply in the Program Award category. Multicampus or systemwide research entities that receive systemwide or designated state funding on an ongoing or non-competed basis are ineligible to apply.

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. Non-allowable costs will be deducted from the funding request. Please see detailed budget guidelines for allowable personnel compensation.

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 systemwide research funding in the 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.

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.

Overview of Application and Review Process

The Applicant PI and the Co-PI from each collaboration UC campus are considered core members of the proposal team and must be identified in the LOI submission. We strongly encourage all applicants to begin the online LOI and application submission process early to allow adequate time to complete both the information required on the SmartSimple interface and required uploads. All submission deadlines are strictly enforced.

Letter of Intent Submission and Review: Applicants must submit a complete LOI using SmartSimple and no application may move forward without an approved LOI. Scholarly merit and research quality will not be evaluated at the LOI stage. The Applicant Institution, Applicant PI, Collaborating campuses and Co-PIs, as defined by this RFP, may not be modified after the LOI is approved. No feedback or comments will be provided on the LOI, and the program decision is binding.

Advancement to Full Proposal: Approved LOIs will be given access to the full application in SmartSimple. 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 by the UC Applicant Institution 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 Co-PIs 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 Innovation in the UC Office of the President. Declined proposals may be submitted to future funding competitions without prejudice. All awards are contingent on availability of funding.

Letter of Intent: Content, Review and Selection

LOI instructions are available online in SmartSimple and attached in Appendix 3 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. An LOI Submission checklist is provided in Appendix 2.

Letter of Intent Content

The LOI includes the following required information:

1. Identification of the Applicant PI and Applicant Institution. Applicant PI information includes: name, academic title and appointment type; departmental affiliation; and biosketch/CV upload to the Project Personnel table.
2. Identification of each Co-PI and their corresponding UC campus or location (one and only one Co-PI per additional collaborating campus). Co-PI information is collected on the "Co-PI Eligibility form", available in SmartSimple. The completed and signed form must be attached to the Co-PI's biosketch/CV and uploaded in SmartSimple Project Personnel table.
3. Proposal title and requested award term
4. Identification of primary subject and focus area(s)

5. Abstract summarizing the proposed scope of research and activities, expected impact or contributions to scholarship and California, and use of any specialized facilities or resources at each participating site relevant to the proposed activities. The abstract should be appropriate for a general scholarly audience and avoid disciplinary jargon or technical language specific to a single field. (2400 characters; approximately 350 words)
6. Brief text responses addressing programmatic and structural components of proposal
7. Estimated funding request

Letter of Intent Review

LOIs will be evaluated for responsiveness to this RFP in three areas: 1) Eligibility and completeness; 2) Compliance with program requirements; and 3) Alignment with the program goals and funding priorities.

A comprehensive LOI review will be conducted for completeness and adherence to the instructions and guidelines. Please review the “Eligibility and Exclusion” criteria prior to completing the LOI. LOI eligibility will be evaluated in accordance with the award type selected. All components of the LOI, including the Applicant PI and each proposed Co-PI, must individually and collectively meet all eligibility criteria in order for the LOI to be determined eligible and advanced to full proposal. No feedback or comments will be provided on the LOI, and the program decision is final and binding.

Full Proposal: Content, Review and Selection

Once an LOI is advanced to full proposal, applicants will be able to access the full application materials in SmartSimple. Applicants may not change the award type, Applicant PI/Applicant Institution, or Co-PIs/collaborating campuses after LOI submission. Complete applications must include all required application materials.

Full Proposal Content

All MRPI proposals (both award types) require the following nine elements and must use the templates provided. One optional upload (#10) is allowed. Additional requirements for Program Awards are itemized separately (see items #11-13).

1. **Abstract/Project Summary** (textbox; 2400 characters): The LOI abstract will be prepopulated in the full application. Applicants may refine or update the abstract, but proposals that diverge significantly from the LOI such that they no longer meet the program guidelines may not be forwarded for review.
2. **Identification of Key Project Personnel**: The Applicant PI and Co-PIs will be prepopulated on the Project Personnel table. At full application you may identify additional *named* Co-Investigators (Co-Is), Postdoctoral fellows, or trainees at the Applicant Institution or any of the previously approved collaborating campuses. Include the name, department, UC/institutional email address, campus and role on project. A biosketch/CV upload is required for the Applicant PI, each Co-PI, and the Co-Is. *Note*: Biosketches/CVs are limited to 3 pages each. They may be submitted in the standard format for your field or discipline (NSF, NIH biosketch, and other formats are acceptable).
3. **Proposed Research** (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 inter-disciplinary 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.

4. 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 career and 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 sub-allocations to individual recipients are proposed, the proposal must articulate how this use of systemwide funds enhances multicampus research and could not be better achieved through the funding of collaborative or multidisciplinary approaches.

5. 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.

6. 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. To demonstrate research sustainability, 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.

7. Literature Cited (2-page): Identify the literature cited in the research narrative and proposed activities.

8. Itemized Budget and Justification: Provide a detailed budget, by project year and campus location, using the budget interface in SmartSimple. Collaborating campuses should enter their budgets as UC “subcontracts.” Budget entries should be accompanied by brief line-item justifications in relation to the proposed activities. See the detailed guidelines and instructions for Allowable and Non-Allowable costs provided with the full application instructions.

9. Additional Documentation: Additional required uploads include a) Identification of any human participants, animal use, or biohazard issues and the approach to compliance (template provided); b) Disclosure of all current or anticipated concurrent sources of UCOP systemwide research funds supporting this collaboration (template provided).

10. Optional: Letter(s) of commitment identifying specific campus resources (if any) that will be required to complete the proposed research. *Only letters identifying specific campus commitments or extramural contributions specifically dedicated to this proposal, not general letters of support, will be accepted.*

Items # 11-13 below apply to Program Awards only:

11. 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 (Appendix 1).

12. 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. (If summer training programs or internships for UC undergraduates are already in place, funding may be requested only to expand these activities in areas consistent with the proposed research, and not to fund the existing program, nor to cover non-UC student participation.)

13. Prior Accomplishments (~1/2 page; if applicable): Established multicampus collaborations that are requesting funding to launch new initiatives or expand their collaborations, or previously funded MRPI Planning/Pilot projects (with end dates on or before December 31, 2022) that are requesting new funding, must justify their request for additional 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, and outline a compelling justification for continued funding. New collaborations do not need to fill out this section.

Full Proposal Review and Selection Criteria

Reviewers will assess criteria #1-4, below, and the additional considerations, in the scoring and ranking of all proposals. Additional scoring criteria #5-7 for required components apply explicitly to 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 labs;
- 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; and
- d. Issues or concerns related to human participants, animal use or biohazards.

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 new opportunities for undergraduate participation in research, internships, or fieldwork appropriate to the fields and disciplines of the proposal. Strong proposals will launch new activities consistent with the proposed research and demonstrate the impact on education and training of a future generation of scholars and engaged citizens.

7. **Research Sustainability and Ability to Leverage Extramural Support:** Program Award applications from established collaborations or previously funded MRPI Planning/Pilot awardees requesting new funding will also be evaluated on 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 Innovation in the UC Office of the President. 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 Leila Sievanen, Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff or Anna Ward at UCRI@ucop.edu.

For administrative questions regarding the application process or technical questions regarding the use of SmartSimple, contact RGPOGrants@ucop.edu.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

Provides additional guidance and examples for applicants

Appendix 2: LOI Submission Checklist

Supplemental checklist to assist applicants at the time of LOI submission

Appendix 3: Instructions for Submission of Letters of Intent

Provides detailed steps for LOI preparation and submission

Appendix 4: Other RGPO Policies and Pre-Award Requirements

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

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.

Appendix 1:

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Version Dated: March 16, 2022

Please refer to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2023 awards for program requirements.

This is a supplement to the 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 SmartSimple. On the SmartSimple homepage (<https://ucop.smartsimple.com/>), log in to your account (or create one if you are a new user), click “Available Funding Opportunities”, and then select “MRPI 2023 Planning/Pilot Award” *or* “MRPI 2023 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 3 of the RFP.

Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time.

Full Proposals are due Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time.

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 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, 2022.

2. How many collaborators are required for a proposal?

Each proposal must have a minimum of one Applicant PI and two Co-PIs, each from a different UC campus. In addition to participation from the three campuses, proposals may include additional Co-Investigators (Co-Is) from the same UC campus, additional Co-PIs each from a different UC campus, or from other systemwide research entities. Examples of other systemwide collaborators include researchers from any of the UC-affiliated national labs, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, any of the five UC medical centers, and Hastings School of Law. (*Note:* UC medical centers are not considered to be separate locations/sites from the other schools or colleges at their campus.) Each proposal includes one and only one PI, and one and only one Co-PI with PI status at their home institution from each *additional* collaborating location. Additional collaborators who make significant contributions to the research may be identified as Co-Investigators, or another appropriate project title.

3. I have several collaborators who will make equal intellectual contributions to the project. Can I identify more than one Co-PI at the same campus?

The intent of the MRPI is to encourage broad participation in multicampus research contributing diverse perspectives and expertise. The role of the Co-PI specifically is to serve as the site lead responsible for administration and oversight of the award at each participating institution. Therefore, each campus may have

one and only one designated PI/Co-PI. For the Applicant institution, this is the Applicant PI. For each additional campus, there can be one and only one Co-PI. Additional collaborators at participating institutions may be added as Co-Is, or other appropriate project titles.

4. Can I participate in more than one proposal?

No. Any individual identified as Key Personnel (i.e. 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.

5. I am involved in a current MRPI award that extends past January 1, 2023, but I do not charge effort to 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 award with an end date after December 31, 2022, you are not eligible to participate in a new proposal, regardless of whether or not you charge effort to the award.

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

The Applicant PI must have PI status at one of the ten UC campuses. Researchers from any of the three UC-affiliated national labs may serve as the 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 a national lab Co-PI or Co-Investigator. Please note that MRPI awards do not include indirect cost recovery.

7. 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 Applicant PI for the proposal.

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

No. Participation in the 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 multicampus research. The composition of the team 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.

9. 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 service contract 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.

10. Can we submit a proposal with an Applicant PI who is located at a different campus than the proposed Applicant Institution?

Exceptions to this organizational model are rare. Justification for an alternative structure requires written approval from UCRI in advance of submitting the LOI. 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, have the concurrence of the VCRs from both the proposed

Applicant Institution and PI's home campus. Letters from each of the VCRs must be received prior to LOI review. LOIs for which these are not on file will not be eligible for acceptance. In the event the Applicant Institution is not the 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 Applicant Institution.

Funding Restrictions and Other Sources of Support:

11. 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.

12. I previously received a MRPI Planning/Pilot Award, and now I want to request a new Planning/Pilot award this cycle with a different collaborative team. Do I have to apply in the Program Award category?

If your current funding ends by December 31, 2022, 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 topical overlap with the previously funded project. If you want to extend the existing collaboration with additional partners or an expanded scope, then you should apply for the Program Award.

13. Our multicampus collaboration receives systemwide funding from other (non-MRPI) 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 or systemwide research entities that receive ongoing or non-competed systemwide funding or designated state funding are ineligible to apply. Multicampus collaborations that receive competed or term-limited grant funding from other UCOP systemwide sources may apply for MRPI funding for a distinct and unique research undertaking, but receive lower priority regardless of scientific merit. All sources of systemwide UCOP funding must be disclosed in the full proposal, and funding overlap or support for ongoing operational activities is not allowed.

14. My MRPI Planning/Pilot award has an end date of December 31, 2022, 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 a current MRPI Planning/Pilot award with an end date on or before December 31, 2022 at the time of full proposal submission, 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.

LOI and Proposal Submission and Application Guidelines

15. 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.

16. 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 LOIs that are advanced to full proposal may access and complete the full application.

17. 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. The Applicant PI and the Co-PI from each collaborating UC campus are considered core members of the proposal team and must be identified in the LOI submission as part of the eligibility review. The RFP outlines the LOI eligibility criteria and review process.

18. My LOI was accepted, and our team was approved to submit a full proposal. Is the LOI binding or can we make changes?

The LOI must accurately present your entire 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. Once the LOI is approved, the award type, Applicant PI, Applicant Institution, and Co-PIs cannot be changed in the full proposal. Co-Investigators and trainees at any of the approved locations may be added.

19. Do we need to submit a letter of support from the Applicant Institution Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) as part of the application?

No. Proposals must be submitted by the Applicant Institution's Sponsored Projects or Contracts & Grants Office, and this serves as documentation of the VCR's approval. Letters of commitment of campus resources 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

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

We anticipate approximately \$16 million total funding for new awards across all categories and award types for this cycle. 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. The median annual award amount in the Program award category is approximately \$370,000. These data are provided as general information only, and funding requests will be considered in relation to their reasonableness and justification. Funding decisions and award ranges are 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.

21. 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

22. 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 or analysis 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.

23. 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, nutrition programs or similar activities related to the scope of the research
- 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
- Agricultural extension activities that 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.

Appendix 2:

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

LOI Submission Checklist

Version Dated: March 16, 2022

Please refer to the 2023 MRPI Request for Proposals for the program goals and eligibility requirements for the 2-year Planning/Pilot Awards and the Multi-year Program Awards. The FAQs accompanying the RFP provide additional guidance. As a first step in the application process, a complete LOI must be submitted by the LOI deadline. This supplemental checklist is intended to assist applicants in ensuring their LOI submission is complete.

- The Applicant PI has completed all the required fields on the SmartSimple MRPI LOI interface.
- The intended award type (Planning/Pilot v. Program) is selected.
- The Project Personnel Table lists the Applicant PI and identifies his/her/their UC campus as the Applicant Institution.
- One and only one Co-PI is identified at each additional participating UC campus/location.
- A minimum of three UC campuses, including the Applicant Institution, is identified in the LOI. (A three-campus collaboration would include one Applicant PI and two Co-PIs).
- The Applicant PI holds PI status at their UC campus and verification of PI Status, if required, is included with the Biosketch/CV in the Project Personnel Table.
- A completed Co-PI Eligibility Form is uploaded with the Biosketch/CV for each Co-PI in the Project Personnel Table. Each Co-PI holds PI status at their UC campus/location and verification of PI status, if required, is included with the CV/Biosketch in the Project Personnel Table.
- All key personnel identified on the LOI are participating in one and only one LOI.

Appendix 3:

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Letter of Intent Submission Instructions Planning/Pilot Awards and Program Awards Version Dated: March 16, 2022

Please refer to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2023 awards for program requirements. This is a supplement to the Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives RFP, and is intended to provide additional guidance and technical support 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.

The University of California (UC) office of Research and Innovation 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 March 16, 2022. Submission and approval of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to submit a full proposal. LOIs must be submitted **by May 12, 2022 before 12:00 noon Pacific Time in the SmartSimple System**. We encourage early submission of LOIs. Please note: LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline.

UCRI uses a grants management system called SmartSimple. Please use the following instructions to submit an LOI before the deadline above.

OVERVIEW OF ONLINE LOI SUBMISSION PROCESS

The LOI must be submitted through SmartSimple at <https://ucop.smartsimple.com>. Applicants may submit LOIs via the online system any time between March 16, 2022 and May 12, 2022. The LOI submission must be **completed** (not merely initiated) by the 12:00 noon PT deadline. Therefore, plan ahead in preparing your submission.

Step 1: ‘Applicant PI’ Designation

LOIs must identify an Applicant Principal Investigator (PI) and Applicant Institution for administering the award. The Applicant PI must have PI status at a UC campus. The Applicant PI should submit the LOI on behalf of the collaboration and is responsible for the full proposal.

Each collaborating campus must identify one site lead called a Collaborating Principal Investigator (Co-PI). Co-PIs are identified in the Project Personnel table 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 SmartSimple

Applicant Principal Investigators (PIs) must register as users of SmartSimple to submit an LOI and complete a proposal at <https://ucop.smartsimple.com>.

All Users Accessing SmartSimple for the First Time:

1. When accessing SmartSimple for the first time, all users should click the “**Register Here**” button under “**Principal Investigator Registration**” and follow the instructions to enter your institution, name, and contact information.
2. Each UC campus has one institution in the system; be sure to search for “University of California” to find their listings.
3. If you need to change the institution that your account is associated with, please contact us.

4. Your user account will then be created. You will receive an email with instructions to create a password and complete your account profile. Once you have completed this step, skip to Step 3: LOI Preparation.
5. If you see a pop-up message indicating that an account with your email address already exists, return to the main login page (<https://ucop.smartsimple.com>), and click the “**Forgot Password**” link. You will receive an email with a link and instructions to reset your password. **If you do not receive the password reset email within one hour, please contact us using the contact information at the end of this document. Make sure to check your spam or junk folder.**

Returning Users: Applicants who have previously registered with SmartSimple or are returning to complete an in progress LOI should enter their username and password under “**Login**” and click the “**Login**” button on the SmartSimple homepage.

The screenshot shows the UCOP SmartSimple login page. At the top left, it says 'UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'. The main heading is 'Welcome to Research Grants Program Office | UCOP'. Below this, there is a 'Login to SmartSimple' form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button. A 'Forgot Password?' link is also visible. On the left side, there is a 'Principal Investigator/New User Registration' section with a 'Register Here' button. Three red callout boxes with arrows point to these elements:

- 1. All users accessing SmartSimple for the first time, click "Register Here" to complete your account registration
- 2. If you see a message indicating that an account with your email address already exists, click "Forgot Password."
- 3. Returning users, enter your email and password and click "Login"

At the bottom left, it says 'Copyright © 2019 SmartSimple. All rights reserved.' and at the bottom right, it says 'Powered by SmartSimple'.

Step 3: LOI Preparation and Submission

1. Once logged into the system, click on “**Available Funding Opportunities**” (upper right corner).
2. Find the row for the award type you are interested in (MRPI Planning/Pilot or Program), then click “**Apply.**” You will then be taken to the Eligibility Check.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Privacy & Security Jane Doe 1

Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications

Available Funding Opportunities

List of available funding opportunities below includes both open and upcoming in the Pacific Time Zone.

1. Click on "Available Funding Opportunities"

| # | Name | Description | Policies and Guidelines | Deadline | Application Deadline | Info | Apply |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------|----------------------|------|-------|
| 1 | CBCRP 2020 - Innovative, Developmental, and Exploratory Award (IDEA) | The Innovative, Developmental, and Exploratory Award (IDEA) supports speculative, exploratory, high-risk/high-reward projects with a primary focus on breast cancer. | PLACEHOLDER_UPLOAD.pdf | 10/24/2019 12:00:00 | 03/05/2020 12:00:00 | Info | Apply |
| 2 | CBCRP 2020 - Translational Research Award | Translational research to be supported by the potential for major impact in the areas of: (1) diagnosis, or treatment of breast cancer; (2) survivors; (3) reduction in the community and the disease in California, or (4) advances in systems changes, health policies or environment will impact public health outcomes. To distinguish research from other types of research fund the applicant to present a "critical path" that along a defined research continuum leading | | | 05/2020 00:00 | Info | Apply |
| 3 | CBCRP 2020 - Conference Award | The Standard Conference Award is open to capacity to host an event that satisfies the criteria for Applications. | | | 04/2019 12:00:00 | Info | Apply |

2. Locate the row of the award type for which you'd like to apply, and click "Apply."

The Community-Led Conference Award supports grassroots

3. Complete the Eligibility Check and click **“Submit.”**
 - The Eligibility Check contains a series of questions and statements regarding applicant eligibility. You must provide an answer to acknowledge that you meet all eligibility criteria mentioned. Upon submitting a “Yes” response, you will be able to start the LOI process. If your answer is “No,” you are not eligible to apply.
4. Review the Helpful Tips, and click **“Continue”** to begin your LOI.
5. Once in the LOI interface, you will see two options on the left sidebar: Main and Notes.
 - **Main:** Click this tab to access each section of the LOI. Detailed instructions for each section are provided below.
 - **Notes:** Click this tab to create Notes for your LOI. Click “+” to add a new Note. Any Notes stored here are for the applicant’s reference only and will not be reviewed by program staff. Please make sure to include all relevant project information in the LOI sections under the Main tab.
6. In the **“Main”** tab, complete each section of the LOI and submit by the deadline. Please see below for detailed descriptions of each section. Note: Be sure to save your work often by clicking **“Save Draft.”** You can access your LOI in later visits for additional work by selecting **“Open”** under **“In Progress Applications”** on the Home screen.

The screenshot displays the user interface for the M23PL5788 RGPOTest Demo LOI. On the left, a sidebar contains 'Main' and 'Notes' tabs. The main content area shows 'Letter of Intent RFP Details' with the name 'RGPOTest MRPI 2023 Planning/Pilot Awards' and a deadline of '05/12/2022 12:00:00'. Below this, a 'Templates and Instructions' section lists two documents: '2023_MRPI_RFP_LOI_Instructions_Submission_Checklist.pdf' (1.3 MB) and 'MRPI_2023_LOI_Co-PI_Eligibility_Form.docx' (32.1 KB). A 'Preview' button is located above a horizontal menu of sections: 'TITLE PAGE', 'APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR', 'PROJECT INFORMATION', 'PROJECT CONTACTS', 'BUDGET', and 'SIGNATURE PAGE'. The 'Application ID: M23PL5788' is shown below the menu. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Save Draft', 'Submit LOI', and 'Withdraw'. Red callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'Main' tab, another to the document list, and a larger one points to the section headings. A 'Preview' callout points to the 'Preview' button.

1. After opening the LOI, you will automatically be taken to the LOI sections under the Main tab. Use the left sidebar to switch between the Main and Notes tabs.

2. In the Main tab, click on headings to access the different sections of the LOI

Download the RFP, LOI Instructions & Submission Checklist and the Co-PI Eligibility Form

Click "Preview" to view, download, or print a PDF of your LOI

STEP BY STEP: DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH LOI SECTION

1. Additional details for each section of the online LOI submission form are provided below. To begin the LOI, please select **Apply** from the “**Available Funding Opportunities**” page; if you have already started an LOI select the “**Home**” page and the “**In Progress Applications**” tile.
2. The LOI sections: **Title Page, Applicant/Principal Investigator, Project Information, Project Contacts, Budget, and Signature Page**, can be completed in any order and in any number of sessions prior to the deadline. You can move between sections by clicking directly on the section headings, or by clicking the “NEXT >” text at the bottom of the screen. Required fields are denoted with a red asterisk (*). **Note:** Please be sure to save your work periodically or after each entry.
3. As you move through each section using the horizontal navigation bar, instructions are always available for download at the top of the page.
4. Click the “**Preview**” button at any time to view, download, or print a pdf version of your LOI.

LOI Section: Title Page

- **Project Title:** Please enter the project title here (100 characters or fewer including spaces).
- **Project Duration (Years):** Using the drop-down menu, select the duration of the project. Refer to the RFP for the options for each award type.
- **Project Start Date:** The project start date for both Planning/Pilot and Program Awards is January 1, 2023.
- **Project End Date:** Please enter the project end date here, based on the number of years requested.
- **Applicant PI UC Academic Appointment Title Group:** Please select Academic Appointment title here. Please consult the RPAC Contracts & Grants Manual for Principal Investigator appointment eligibility: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/resources-tools/contract-and-grant-manual/chapter1/chapter-1-500.html#ch1-530>
- **Applicant PI percent time on UC payroll at one of the ten UC Campuses:** Please indicate applicable percent effort category.
- **Prior/Concurrent MRPI and Lab Fees Funding:** Please answer the questions regarding the previous and current funding of the collaboration, the PI, and the Co-PIs. If “Yes” is selected on any of the questions, an additional text box will appear for you to provide more information.
- **Confirmation proposed collaboration meets eligibility requirements:** Provide confirmation you have reviewed the RFP and verified that the proposed collaboration, Applicant PI and each Co-PI individually and collectively meet the eligibility requirements.

LOI Section: Applicant/Principal Investigator

Applicant/Principal Investigator information will be auto-populated from the “My Profile” section of your SmartSimple account. Please review this section for accuracy. To make changes to this information, click on your name in the upper right corner of the page, and select “My Profile.” Save your changes. Return to the LOI by selecting “**Home**” in the upper right corner of the screen, and then the “In Progress Applications” tile. You can also go directly to the “My Profile” page in your account to make changes at any time.

LOI Section: Project Information

- **Lay Abstract:** In the textbox provided, concisely summarize the proposed project. This abstract is limited to 2,400 characters including spaces (approximately 350 words) and should be written in a manner that is appropriate for a general scholarly audience. 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 abstract is non-confidential, and may be published or circulated by the Program. An abstract is required.

- **LOI Questions:** 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 rich text formatting cannot be saved or displayed).

| | |
|--|--|
| FOR BOTH AWARD TYPES (PLANNING/PILOT AND PROGRAM): | |
| Briefly justify the faculty team and composition of the multicampus collaboration. Summarize how shared leadership opportunities will be integrated in the project, as well the use of shared resources, if any. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| Briefly describe the importance and benefit of the proposed research to California and/or the University of California. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| FOR PLANNING/PILOT ONLY: | |
| Summarize the components of and approach to graduate student engagement in the project. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| FOR PROGRAM AWARDS ONLY: | |
| Summarize the approach to graduate and undergraduate engagement in the research, and components of the project that will enhance education or curricula. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |
| Summarize the components of public engagement and/or community collaboration, including any specific groups, organizations, or roles, in the proposed project. | Limit Response to 1,000 characters (~150 words). |

- **Review Area:** Select the review area that most closely aligns with the proposal.
- **Subject Area(s):** Select the subject area(s).
- **Focus Area(s):** Start typing a character and choose your project’s focus area(s) from the drop-down menu.
- **Suggested Reviewers:** (Optional) UC Research Initiatives 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, email address, and affiliation of reviewers. In addition, you may identify scientific peers who you do not want to review your proposal. Click the “Enter Suggested Reviewer” button to list individuals in either category.
 - **Recommendations:** In the “Notes” column, please indicate that this is a recommendation.
 - **Exclusions:** You may identify scientific peers who you do not want to review your proposal. In the “Notes” column, please indicate that this is an exclusion. Such requests MUST include a brief explanation of the perceived conflict of interest in the “Notes” column.
 - Final determination of review assignments is at the discretion of the Program. All requests to include or exclude reviewers are confidential.

Reviewer Information

i Please use the '+' button add new rows

1. Enter the name and affiliation of the reviewer

2. Use the "Notes" column to indicate if this is a recommendation or an exclusion, and why.

3. Click the "+" button to add more rows (if needed)

4. Click "Save" once you have completed entering information

| First Name | Last Name | Role | Institution | Email | Notes |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Smith | John | Professor | UCLA | | |

+ Save Close

LOI Section: Project Contacts

- Project Personnel:** At the LOI stage, you must enter the Applicant Principal Investigator of the project, and the Co-PI site lead for each collaborating campus. Click **“Enter Project Personnel.”** A separate window will open. Using the “+” button, enter the names and details of the PI and Co-PI site leads. For each 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 Co-PI per participating site – do not include other collaborating investigators or other grant personnel on the LOI.
 - Role on Project:** For each personnel, select their role on the project from the drop-down list. At the LOI stage, only include personnel with the Role of Applicant Principal Investigator or Co-PI.
 - PI/Co-PI column:** Disregard this column.
 - Click **“Save”** to save your changes. Click **“Close”** to return to the Project Contacts tab.
- Upload Personnel Biosketches:** On the Project Contacts tab, a button will appear to upload a Biosketch/CV for the PI and Co-PIs. Each Co-PI (collaborating Campus/Institution site lead) should complete a Co-PI Eligibility Form, downloaded from the Templates and Instructions forms at the top of the LOI screen) and attach to their Biosketch/CV and upload here.

1. Click "Enter Project Personnel" to open a new window that will allow you to enter all Personnel involved in your project.

2. Once you have entered all Personnel, return to the Institution Contacts page on the application to see a display of all Project Personnel.

3. Click "Upload" to upload the biosketch of the person named in the first row. Repeat the biosketch upload process for each Personnel row.

4. Click "Save Draft" to display a link to the biosketch that you uploaded.

| Last Name | First Name | Email Address | Degrees | Title | Department | Institution | Role on Project | % Effort | Institution Type | Out-of-State Effort? | PI / Co-PI | Upload Biosketch | Biosketch |
|-----------|------------|---------------|---------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------|--|
| Hello | Hi | hi@hello.com | MD | Physician | Oncology | UC San Diego | Collaborator | 10 | Academic/Research Institution | No | Jane Doe 2 | Upload | Biosketch_on_Project_Personnel_Test_Upload.pdf |

LOI Section: Budget

- **Amount Requested:** Enter the estimated total amount requested for each year of the proposed project. Click **“Save Draft,”** and the system will calculate the total amount requested. This amount is an estimate only and is not binding. If your LOI is approved, you may adjust the amount(s) in the full application stage. Hint: You must first select the project “duration” on the Title Page in order for the system to display the budget line(s) per project period.

LOI Section: Signature Page

All Applicant PIs must certify that the statements provided in the LOI are true, complete, and accurate to the best of the applicant’s knowledge. The applicant is aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. The applicant agrees to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application.

- **Applicant Signature:** Check the box to certify the information in your LOI.
- **Signee:** Type your full name into the field.
- **Date:** Select the date on which you have signed the LOI.

Review your LOI: Preview button

Click the **“Preview”** button to view or download a PDF of your LOI submission. The Preview button is made available so applicants may print or download their LOI submission. Click on the download or print icons (upper left corner) to view, print, or download the completed LOI.

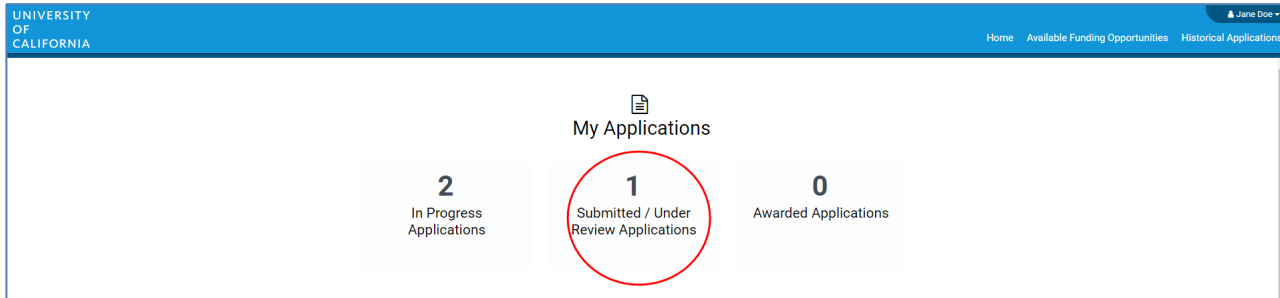
Submit your LOI

Click the **“Submit LOI”** button to submit your LOI to the program. If you decide not to submit the LOI and no longer want to be considered for this funding opportunity, you may wish to withdraw your LOI. Clicking on **“Withdraw”** will completely remove the LOI record from your account. In lieu of “Withdraw” you can choose not to submit a completed LOI.

The screenshot displays the 'Signature Page' of an LOI submission for 'T19IP0135'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA' on the left and 'Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications' on the right. Below the navigation bar, a 'Letter of Intent RFP Details' box shows the name 'TRDRP 2019A High Impact Pilot Award', type 'High Impact Pilot Award', and deadline '07/12/2018 18:00:00'. A 'Templates and Instructions' section lists a PDF file 'RFP_Templates_and_Instructions_-_High_Impact_Pilot.PDF'. A 'Preview' button is visible. The main content area has tabs for 'TITLE PAGE', 'APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR', 'PROJECT INFORMATION', 'BUDGET', and 'SIGNATURE PAGE'. Under the 'Applicant Signature' section, there is a checkbox for certifying the information, a 'Signee' field with 'Jane Doe', and a 'Date' field with '07/26/2018'. Two red callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'Submit LOI' button, stating '1. Once you have checked the Applicant Signature box, typed your name, and inserted the date, click "Submit LOI" to submit your LOI to the program.' The other points to the 'Withdraw' button, stating 'If you decide not to submit the LOI and no longer want to be considered for this funding opportunity, click "Withdraw" to completely remove the LOI record from your account.' At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Save Draft', 'Submit LOI', and 'Withdraw'.

Confirming Status of Your Submitted LOI

Following the submission of an LOI to SmartSimple, applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of the LOI. The email confirmation typically arrives within a few minutes (the length of time may be greater near the submission deadline). If you do not receive the SmartSimple confirmation email within an hour of your submission, please contact us using the contact information provided at the end of this document. You can also confirm the status of your LOI submission by going to your SmartSimple home page, under the “Home” link in the upper right corner and clicking on “Submitted/Under Review Applications.”



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Jane Doe

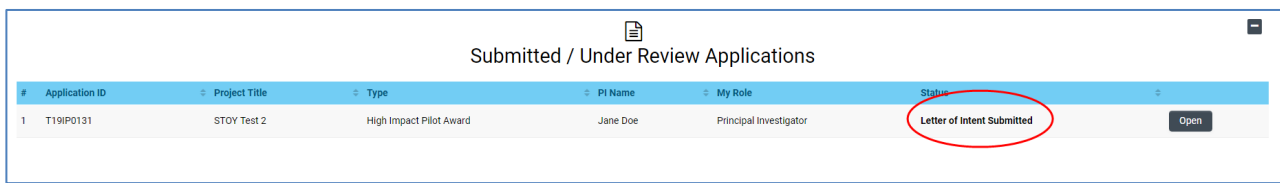
Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications

My Applications

2 In Progress Applications

1 Submitted / Under Review Applications

0 Awarded Applications



Submitted / Under Review Applications

| # | Application ID | Project Title | Type | PI Name | My Role | Status | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| 1 | T19IP0131 | STOY Test 2 | High Impact Pilot Award | Jane Doe | Principal Investigator | Letter of Intent Submitted | Open |

Questions and Technical Support

Should you have any questions regarding your application, please contact:

- UC Research Initiatives at UCRI@ucop.edu regarding program scope, priorities, and eligibility.
- Research Grants Program Office at RGPOGrants@ucop.edu regarding application and pre/post-award procedures, and technical questions regarding SmartSimple.

For the most up-to-date application and review cycle information refer to the following website:

<https://www.ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi/Application-Information.html>

Appendix 4:
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, Animal Subjects, and Biohazards:

Approvals for use of human subjects and material, animals, and biohazards 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.