Request for College of Engineering Funding Support for Large, Multidisciplinary Proposals and Site Visits

The instructions below are for awards that would have a broad impact on the college, benefit multiple departments and, in general, generate at least $1 million of UC Davis College of Engineering research expenditures (total direct plus indirect costs) per year, excluding cost sharing. For smaller awards, please see “Support for Proposals.”

Enhancing our faculty’s success in securing large, multidisciplinary grants will not only increase our college’s research awards and expenditures but will also bring more visibility to our college and its faculty. In order to facilitate this, the College of Engineering (CoE) will provide financial support to assist faculty in the submission of large, multidisciplinary proposals and in the preparation for site visits that are part of the process of securing a large, multidisciplinary grant. This financial support can be used to hire UC Davis staff and/or external consultants to assist PIs. Financial support could also include travel expenses to visit program managers and/or for co-PI travel to UC Davis.

Proposal support funds will be retained in the dean’s office and used to pay expenses submitted by the PI to the CoE. Financial support will not be provided to conduct research.

In general, to be eligible to receive this support:

1. The PI must be a UC Davis CoE faculty member with at least four other co-PIs, one of whom must be from UC Davis;

2. The PI and co-PIs must represent at least two different UC Davis programs or departments; and

3. The award should generate, in general, at least an average of $1 million of UC Davis College of Engineering research expenditures (total direct costs plus indirect costs) per year, excluding cost sharing.

Applications seeking this support should include the following items.

1. A cover page that includes PI and co-PI names and affiliations, the award being sought (with URL if available), funding agency, and submission deadline.

2. A two to five page white paper including a description of the proposal objectives and research/education plan, differentiated expertise of team members, and a summary of the proposal budget.

3. The expected proposal generation timeline or site visit timeline.

4. Plans for leveraging support from the UC Davis Office of Research Interdisciplinary Research Support (IRS) unit.

5. A budget for the proposal support funds that are being sought. External proposal consultants will bill at the rate of about $150/hour; technical writers at a rate of $50-$100/hour; graphic designers and proofreaders at a rate of about $25-$50/hour. If needed, the Associate Dean for Research can facilitate the selection and hiring of such individuals, as well as provide resources for assistance with budget estimation.
6. A letter from the PI’s department chair confirming significant time release for the PI to work on the proposal/site visit. Please discuss with your chair the lead period necessary to obtain this time release.

In addition, the PI and selected co-PIs will be asked to give a short oral presentation on the proposal plan to the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (and selected engineering faculty/staff).

The Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies will review applications (with input from other selected engineering faculty/staff) on a rolling basis. Proposals that include Assistant Professors and/or Lectures with Potential for Security of Employment as a PI or co-PI will be given high priority for support. Approved applications will receive support as long as program funds are available.

Submission of requests for this funding support or questions related to this funding support should be directed to Professor Jean VanderGheynst, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Engineering (jsvander@ucdavis.edu).