

UO-OHSU Collaborative Seed Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Program Overview

What types of research are eligible for this opportunity? Can work outside of the natural sciences be included?

Yes, this opportunity is available to support all of the types of research taking place at UO and OHSU. The proposed activities need to be research focused, however (i.e., not instructional in nature or purely an outreach activity).

Are reviewers expecting an explanation of the scientific rationale for a research project or a description of how the team is going to develop?

Both. We expect to see some scientific rationale and explanation of the intellectual merit of the proposed work. Applicants should also provide justification for the makeup of your team and details of any existing collaborative efforts between team members. Successful applications will have both a significant research question and a description of the team structure.

What else will the review committee be looking for?

We encourage applicants to think beyond their typical collaborations, collaborators, journal outlets and funding agencies. Instead, think creatively about what would move the science/scholarship forward, think big (but include in your submission a clear path to get there, with concrete milestones).

Are resubmission applications considered?

We do not have a formal resubmission mechanism whereby your proposal can directly address feedback from a prior submission. However, you are welcome to submit a new application, and a new application could have some similarities to a prior submission. A new submission that is nearly identical to the prior proposal will likely not be reviewed favorably, because similar review criteria will be used.

Are all teams expected to first apply for a convening grant before applying for a Phase 1?

It is not a requirement that research teams submit a convening grant before being eligible to submit for a Phase 1 Piloting grant. In some instances, a convening grant will lead to submission of a Phase 1 Piloting grant in a subsequent year, but this is not a prerequisite. The decision to apply for a convening versus piloting grant should be based on the scope of work planned.

How well-established do research teams need to be for a competitive submission of a Phase 1 Piloting grant?

The Phase 1 Piloting mechanism is meant to seed pilot studies, facilitate the collection of preliminary data, and facilitate grant submissions. If your new research team is organized and prepared to conduct that type of work, a Phase 1 Piloting grant would be the most appropriate funding mechanism.

Can Convening grant applications propose to conduct pilot or feasibility studies?

No. If pilot or feasibility studies are proposed, the application is most appropriate for the Phase 1 Piloting grant mechanism. Convening grants support activities designed to bring faculty teams together for structured meetings or other organizing functions to incubate collaborative ideas and develop new research agendas. Other activities may include writing joint publications or working with external consultants or experts who can advise new research teams.

For Phase 2 Piloting Grants, what serves as evidence that the team is close to receipt of external funding?

Applicants are expected to provide documentation of external grant submission and, if available, reviewer comments and/or summary statements. If the team has not yet submitted an external grant proposal, but is close to submission, a draft of the proposed application, or correspondences with program officers, should be included as appendix materials. If it is not likely that the research team will receive external funding prior to summer 2020, a Phase 2 Piloting application may be premature.

Are there other sources of funding to support research activities prior to a competitive Phase 2 Piloting submission?

We encourage research teams funded previously through a Phase 1 Piloting grant to consider applying for funds from regional sponsors, such as the Medical Research Foundation or Collins Medical Trust, if further preliminary data collection and research is necessary for submission of an external grant. You can also connect with the OHSU and UO Research Development Offices to identify other funding opportunities.

Eligibility

Can an individual be PI on more than one application?

One person cannot serve as PI on more than one application but can be a team member (e.g., co-investigator) for multiple projects.

Can Emeritus faculty members serve as a PI?

Emeritus faculty members at UO cannot serve as PI on proposals to this program. However, they are welcome to participate as co-investigators or in other collaborative roles.

Can we have Co-PIs or Multiple PIs within an institution?

We require that each institution have a single contact PI, but proposals can additional PIs if well-justified in the proposal.

Budget

What are some possible budget items we can include in a proposal?

A non-exhaustive list of allowable expenses includes costs of getting people from both institutions together to meet and plan the research, proposal review activities, and pilot or feasibility studies to gather preliminary data.

Do we include a total budget or separate budgets by institution?

The required Excel budget template includes separate budget forms for each institution. The budget justification should be separated by institution.

Who is the fiscal contact I should list on my proposal?

You should include the contact information for your departmental business manager for each institution.

Are PIs required to include their own effort in the budget?

No FTE is required for PIs.

Have the two institutions allocated a specific amount of funding for this initiative?

UO and OHSU are sharing the costs of this program and leadership from both institutions will make all funding and resource allocation decisions jointly. Our institutions have committed funds to this program for the 2019-2020 cycle. We hope to continue the award program in future years.

Building your Team

Is there a mechanism for finding collaborators at our partner institution?

We are working on developing some strategies for identifying cross-institution collaborators. We encourage interested faculty to join our listserv to learn about potential opportunities. Please feel free to contact Research Development Services at each institution (rds@uoregon.edu or funding@ohsu.edu) and we may be able to help identify collaborators with specific expertise.

Can the team include researchers from other institutions as well?

Members of the team may come from institutions other than UO and OHSU. However, the primary intent of the award is to support work between UO and OHSU, and the funding will be released to those two institutions only.

Do the PIs have to be primarily located on the Eugene campus of UO or the Portland campus of OHSU?

Collaborators physically located on satellite campuses of UO and OHSU are eligible to participate in this program.

Application Specifications

Do references count toward the 3-page application limit?

No, references can be included on a separate page and do not count within the 3-page limit. Numbered or APA-style references are both acceptable.

Are we required to provide an abstract?

Yes, you will need to provide a brief abstract when you submit your proposal through the application portal.