

## Grand Challenges Research Proposal Guidelines Exploratory Research Grants Opportunity

April 2016

We invite proposals for faculty-led exploratory research initiatives under the Grand Challenges framework to advance the interdisciplinary research goals of the [Twin Cities Campus Strategic Plan](http://strategic-planning.umn.edu) (strategic-planning.umn.edu).

Our focus is to elevate the University's interdisciplinary research strengths for greater impact on the critical societal issues facing our state and the world. Exploratory research proposals will identify exciting opportunities to foster new interdisciplinary collaborations, spur creative interdisciplinary approaches, integrate research across disciplines and colleges, and strengthen productive research interactions within and beyond the University.

Proposals will set the stage to build on current University research strengths while also breaking new ground, distinguishing our institution through signature intellectual, policy, and institutional contributions. Successful proposals will advance the research innovation that contributes to the institutional transformation envisioned in the Strategic Plan—creating new opportunities for faculty collaboration and reducing barriers to interdisciplinary research more generally.

The exploratory research grants opportunity is a complement to the Provost's Grand Challenges Interdisciplinary Research Work Groups, which will also develop multiple, high-potential and collaborative proposals.

Successful exploratory research grant proposals will be funded at levels up to \$60,000. We expect most proposals to range between \$25,000 and \$50,000, based on the goals of the proposed research. Awards are non-recurring and must be expended within two years.

Proposals funded through Exploratory Research Grants will be eligible for additional funding, through a partnership with the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, for collaborations that effectively foster internationalization of the University of Minnesota. This supplemental funding will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

### **Key elements of faculty participation in the exploratory research proposal process include:**

- At least two faculty must be named as co-PIs;
- The co-PIs must represent an interdisciplinary collaboration across colleges;
- Co-PIs are encouraged to invite the participation of additional faculty members. A larger team composition is not required.
- If you submitted a Grand Challenges Research idea during the Summer 2015 "Call for Ideas" process, you are welcome to build on your idea submission.

*see next page for proposal submission guidelines >*

**Guidelines**  
**Grand Challenges Exploratory Research Proposal Submission**

- **Co-PI contact information.** Provide names, titles, departmental affiliation(s), emails, and phone numbers for the co-PIs.
- **Additional faculty participants.** List the names, titles, departmental affiliation(s), emails, and phone numbers for each member of the research team, if applicable.
- **Level of funding.** State the funding amount that you are seeking.
- **Proposals must include the following information and descriptions in no more than five pages** (12-point font, single spaced, 1-inch margins):
  - Identify the specific Grand Challenge theme that you are exploring and articulate the research question(s) to be pursued within that theme. Describe the Grand Challenge research and its significance, including the ways that it may contribute to beneficial outcomes to society, highlighting the gaps in knowledge that will be addressed (~ 1 page).
  - Briefly, but explicitly, describe the relationship of the proposal’s intent to the eight Grand Challenges research criteria outlined in the **TC Campus Strategic Plan** (pages 29–32) (~ 1½ page):
    - Local relevance and global impact,
    - Builds on current faculty strength and leadership,
    - Disciplinary diversity,
    - Impact on the University and its reputation,
    - Suitability for a land-grant research university,
    - Interconnection with education (potential to involve undergraduates and graduate students in research, and contribution to Grand Challenges course curriculum),
    - Engagement of external constituencies (public and private sector, and communities and citizen organizations), and
    - Sustainability over time (up to 10 years).
  - Address the ways in which the proposed research will break new ground in its approach to collaborative, interdisciplinary research. Note any interrelationships to other Grand Challenges. Describe the potential for this research to catalyze additional interdisciplinary opportunities (~ 1 page).

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- Describe the unique strengths of the co-PIs (and additional participating faculty, if applicable), and the potential for new collaborations, particularly across units within the University or with partners outside of the University. Describe any work that you are jointly undertaking currently or have completed in the past. (~ ½ page).
- Provide a statement of any existing financial support that will be applied to this work and the potential for external funding that might be sought as the work evolves over time. (~ ½ page).
- Present the proposed budget for your funding request, and, in addition, identify any other funds available to the team that will supplement a potential Grand Challenges research award. Budget items may include, for example, RA support at the graduate and undergraduate levels, seminars, meeting expenses, administrative support, or discretionary funding for advancing the project.
- Projects that effectively foster internationalization of the University of Minnesota, in one or more of the following ways may be eligible for additional funding through a partnership with the GPS Alliance:
  - Pursue research and scholarship with explicit attention to a global perspective and/or engagement of global partners;
  - Encourage or facilitate the identification and development of new relationships with international collaborators;
  - Actively seek to involve expertise and perspectives from existing international collaborators; and/or
  - Encourage or promote research that will lead to the development or enhancement of courses (at home or abroad) or curriculum to expand students' international, global, and/or intercultural learning.

*To be considered for this additional funding, please download and complete a brief form as an addendum to your Exploratory Research Grant proposal:*

[http://global.umn.edu/grandchallenges/documents/supplemental\\_intl\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://global.umn.edu/grandchallenges/documents/supplemental_intl_application_form.pdf)

Please submit your proposal to [gcrsrch@umn.edu](mailto:gcrsrch@umn.edu) by June 15, 2016.

Inquiries can also be sent to [gcrsrch@umn.edu](mailto:gcrsrch@umn.edu).