



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
MISSOURI

SPONSORED PROGRAMS
& RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Bridge Internal Grants Program



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Bridge Internal Grants Program

Overview

The Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Integrity's (OSPRI) Bridge Internal Grants Program provides funding to support faculty, staff, and students in the pursuit of research, scholarship, creative activities, and community engagement initiatives.

These funding opportunities are designed to strengthen capacity and enhance the competitiveness of proposals for external funding.

Departmental approval is required for the Principal Investigator (PI) and all co-Principal investigators (co-PIs) before any Bridge grant application will be considered eligible for review and support.

Awards must be used for activities and expenditures permissible under university policies and procedures and must comply with the terms and conditions of the award. All expenses must be incurred during the grant award period and must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable in support of the project or program.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity will coordinate the review and evaluation of all submissions. Award recipients will be notified via email.

The Bridge Program looks to fund projects that achieve/adhere to one or more of the following:

- Align with UCM's strategic goals and objectives
- Enable new, non-tenured faculty/staff to gain practical experience with the grant proposal process and general project management process.
- Support senior, tenured faculty/staff in initial research that will lead to externally funded grant applications.
- Student involvement is encouraged when appropriate

Funding Opportunities

Proposal Enhancement Grant (PEG):

The Proposal Enhancement Grant (PEG) provides funding for pilot studies, feasibility studies, or the collection of baseline data in support of externally funded grant applications. The PI must be a full-time faculty member. The program provides up to \$5,000 per project, determined by need and justification.

Grant Details:

- Project Duration: up to 24 months
- Award Limit: 1 award per PI/PD every 3 years
- Application Deadline: October 15th
- Earliest Start Date: January 1st

New and Early-Career Faculty Exploratory Grant (NEFE)

The New and Early-Career Faculty Exploratory Grant provides seed funding to support the research, scholarship, and creative activities of new tenured or tenure-track faculty during their first five years of employment at UCM.

This program is designed to support the development of a robust research and/or scholarly activity portfolio and enhance competitiveness for external funding opportunities. Funding may be used to initiate pilot projects, generate preliminary data, or advance creative and scholarly work that positions faculty for future grant submissions.

The program provides up to \$5,000 per project, determined by need and justification. Faculty are eligible to receive funding once through this program.

Grant Details:

- Project Duration: up to 12 months
- Award Limit: 1 award per PI/PD
- Application Deadline: October 15th
- Earliest Start Date: January 1st

GRIT Grant

The GRIT Grant is designed to strengthen the competitiveness of previously submitted extramural grant proposals that received favorable peer review but were not selected for

funding. The GRIT Grant provides targeted funding to address reviewer comments and recommendations, refine proposal components, and generate additional data to improve the proposal for resubmission.

The program provides up to \$5,000, determined by need and justification. Award recipients are expected to resubmit the revised proposal to a federal, state or other external funding agency during the current or following academic year.

Eligibility

Proposals must have received competitive scores and favorable review by an extramural grant review panel. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- NIH proposals that received an overall Impact/Priority Score of 40 or lower.
- NSF proposals that received a majority of ratings of "Good" or above.
- U.S. Department of Education proposals that received a score of 75% or higher of the total possible points or were designated as fundable but not funded due to budget limitations.
- U.S. Department of Labor proposals that received a score of 75% or higher of the total possible points or were deemed competitive but not funded.
- Proposals submitted to other external funders, evaluated on a case-by-case basis based on documented reviewer comments, recommendations, and evidence that the proposal is competitive and likely fundable upon revision.

Applicants must include panel summaries or score documentation as part of the GRIT Grant application.

Grant Details:

- Project Duration: up to 12 months
- Award Limit: 1 award per PI/PPD per project
- Application Deadline: April 15th
- Earliest Start Date: June 1st

Bridge Program Special Eligibility Conditions

Consecutive NFE, PEG, or GRIT projects must be independent of each other and directed toward developing a separate idea unless the PEG follows the NFE or GRIT grant. No more than two (2) NFE, PEG, or GRIT allotments of any combination are allowed during a period of six years. (Beginning with the notification date of the first award received.)

Submission Guidelines

Application Process

All applicants must complete the Determination of Research (DOR) Form and submit the emailed feedback as a pdf attachment alongside the application packet. If it is determined that you need IRB, IACUC, or Biosafety oversight, approval will be required prior to grant funds being awarded.

1. Manual

This manual will help you fully understand the Bridge Program and its processes. Please refer to the manual, or if you have any questions, now is the time to reach out to ospbridge@ucmo.edu for help applying for a Bridge grant.

2. Complete the Bridge Program Application Packet

Applicants are required to complete the Bridge Program Application Packet. All grants MUST use this packet. Please change the header in the right-hand corner and insert your grant type (PEG, NEFE, or GRIT), your last name, and the page number. (e.g., PEG, Smith, 1)

○ Contents of Application Packet

- ❖ *Abstract: (5 points) This template is for a summary of the project and its primary research goals. Please include the project's need, purpose, justification, positive outcome(s), and research methods. (up to 250 words)*
- ❖ *Scope of Work: (5 points) Complete the logic model template. Its purpose is to outline the project's vision and answer the vital questions of who, what, when, where, why, and how the project will progress. (1-2 pages)*
- ❖ *Project Narrative: (35 points) The Project Narrative template is used to explore the project's goals and anticipate overall outcomes in more detail than the abstract. You must write the narrative in a language that non-experts in your field can easily understand. (3 pages)*
- ❖ *Budget and Budget Justification: (15 points) List all expenses needed to finish the project. Please provide justification for all budget line items and explain how they are integral to the completion of the project. (1-2 page)*

- ❖ *References: (5 points) List any resources you may have used to obtain data and/or relevant information to the research and cite all sources in the Narrative. (Not included in the page limit)*

3. Meet with the Bridge Program Administrator

All applicants are required to meet with the Bridge Program Administrator at least once before submitting their proposal. This is to ensure that the applicant is applying for the correct grant for their project, aligning with the goals of the Program, and helping make a strong application. Both virtual meetings and in-person meetings are acceptable.

4. Submit Application

Applicants submit their Bridge Program Application Packet through the Smartsheet Form found [here](#).

5. Proposal Fate

The applicant's supervisors will review applications. The applicant will receive an email notification containing the supervisor's decision. If the applicant's supervisor approves the application, the application is automatically routed to the review committee.

After the committee reviews the applications, the OSPRI team will add up the reviewers' scores. The highest scoring applications for each grant type will be awarded based on the quality and quantity of submissions received.

The applicants will receive an email with the final fate of their proposal. The applicants that have been awarded a Bridge Program Grant will receive further information and guidance 30 days after receiving the notice of their proposal's fate.

Allowable Costs

- Equipment (UCM retains ownership of all equipment purchased)
- Supplies
- Domestic Travel (Pre-approved by OSPRI)
- Project related student worker wages
- Food/Beverage justified in the budget
- Other items requested will be considered depending on the relevance to the project