Vice President for Research Discretionary Funds
2016 - 17

Background: These discretionary funds are intended to support research and scholarship by faculty and staff by allowing them to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities or deal with unexpected problems encountered during a project. These funds are also intended to provide support for projects with commercial potential that need funding to engage in activities that support the further development of a concept. The program is not intended to replace other sources of internal or external funding, but rather to provide flexible support with a rapid turn-around for unanticipated events. Hypothetical examples of circumstances where this funding might be granted include, but are not limited to:

- You present what is acclaimed as a seminal paper in your field at a major international conference. Two months later you receive an invitation to attend a workshop in Greece to develop a major international collaborative project; you need funding to attend;
- Half way through an externally funded project a critical piece of equipment breaks; you need to repair or replace the equipment but there is no funding in the grant to do so;
- You are studying international aid to Central America and the country where you completed your doctoral research suffers a devastating earthquake; you want to visit as soon as possible to lend your expertise to the recovery effort and observe how the local aid infrastructure copes with the crisis;
- You have an invention that has been disclosed to ORGS and a student needs to be hired to collect more data or you need funds to assist in the development of a prototype;
- Your NIH grant renewal has received excellent reviews but you need bridge funding to support your research technician until the new funding arrives.

Discretionary funds are generally not awarded to continue or expand projects that have received significant prior internal support. Applications will not be considered from faculty members who are delinquent on requirements for other internal awards (including FRCE).

Amount available: $60,000 per year

Range of Grants: Up to $7,500 in exceptional circumstances. Most awards will be $5,000 or less.

Match: Requires a 1:1 match from the applicant’s academic college.

Deadline: Applications are accepted at any time. Decisions are made within two weeks.

Awards: Awards must be spent within one year of the award date.

Guidelines and How to Apply: Use the ORGS Transmittal Form for Internal Grant Applications and ORGS Internal Proposal Budget Form which are available on the ORGS website.

Proposal narratives are limited to 1 page (letter sized paper with 1” margins), single space text in 11 point or larger Times New Roman. Explain:

a. Reason for the request – what you want to do?

b. Anticipate outcomes – what benefits will result from the investment?

c. Justification for request – why the request is urgent and why there is no alternative source of funding