Dean’s Research Initiative

Awards provide internal support for competitively reviewed proposals to stimulate research and additional outside research funding for a one-year period. Award categories and submission guidelines are outlined below. For all categories, evidence of planned future efforts to secure external funding for the activities will be viewed favorably in reviewing proposals.

### Application Guidelines and Details

**Guidelines**

**Eligibility Requirements:** Tenured/Tenure-track, Research, Teaching, and Clinical Faculty in BSOS are eligible for Faculty Research Awards. Professional track faculty only may request salary support (the DRI will not allow for course releases). Other considerations equal, funding preference will be given to applicants who have not recently received DRI funding. If you have received a prior DRI award and have any reports outstanding at the submission deadline, your application will not be considered for funding.

**Budget Limitations:** With the exception of graduate student tuition remission, proposal budgets with personnel costs must include fringe benefits. The maximum amount per award in each category, however, does not include fringe benefits, and therefore may be exceeded to account for them. Tuition costs may be allowable on Mentored Undergraduate Research Teams. Strong preference will be given to proposals that include a departmental commitment. The total project budget should not exceed the limits indicated above, inclusive of cost sharing from departments. Graduate Student Travel Awards always require department matching. Funds from cost-sharing should be included in the budget you provide. Matching funds are required on all interdisciplinary/intercollegiate proposals from the non-BSOS unit. Software otherwise provided by the university or departments (e.g. SAS, SPSS) is not allowable on DRI awards. A budget narrative explaining the relevance of the costs to the scope of work is required.

The review committee will consider competitive renewals for previous DRI awards in cases where unusually significant progress has been made (i.e., at or beyond the level of accomplishment proposed in the funded application) and where additional pilot funding has the promise of transformative outcomes. In these cases, strong arguments must be made for past and future efforts to obtain external funding and how another DRI award is crucial to external funding applications.

Applications seeking funds to purchase or create a lasting piece of equipment, research instrument, or larger scale data set should include a detailed statement about plans for future resource sharing (across disciplines if applicable) to increase the scope and reach of the investment.

Preference will be given to applications that:

a) provide a detailed plan for meaningful outcomes resulting from the DRI award with a timeline of measurable outcomes that include research activities, funding efforts, and scholarly products;
b) provide support for students from underrepresented groups; and
c) propose particularly efficient use of funds and smaller budgets as appropriate.

Acceptance of funds acknowledges your willingness to provide a one-page progress report at 14 months and again at 22 months. **Please note that funds must be spent in the first year (carry-over is not permitted).** Progress reports will include the initial proposed timelines and actual progress for research activities, funding efforts, and scholarly products.

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**Proposal Assembly and Submission Instructions**

**Proposal Assembly** (Standard proposal assembly instructions apply to all proposal types.)

Proposals should be compiled in a single PDF and utilize the following format:

1) Scientific narrative up to three single spaced pages (12pt Times New Roman) with core elements to typically include introduction, aims/hypotheses, and methods. (This is for all awards except for Junior Faculty International Research Awards, Mentored Undergraduate Research Teams, and Graduate Student Travel Awards: see the “Additional Notes” sections in those categories for instructions on proposal narratives.)
2) List of previous efforts to obtain external funding for this specific work, if relevant
3) Detailed timeline across the year of funding and up to one year beyond, outlining proposed a) research activities, b) funding efforts, and c) scholarly products
4) Detailed budget including other research activities funded by cost-sharing (including the source of these funds)
5) CVs from all personnel

**Submission Details**

*Please note: the submission process has changed from prior years.*

Proposals for all mechanisms are due by 5 pm March 23, 2020 to your department Chair and Director of Administrative Services via the InfoReady system. The Chair and DAS will route approved proposals to the BSOS Research Office directly by March 30, 2020. Proposals submitted directly to the BSOS Research office will not be considered. Award decisions will be announced on or before May 1, 2020.

Questions regarding eligibility, assembly, and submission of proposals can be directed to bsosresearch@umd.edu. Direct any scientific questions to Dr. Jeff Lucas at jlucas2@umd.edu.
1. **Collaborative Proposals (CL)**
   **Goal:** To promote high impact cross-cutting ideas to spark trans-disciplinary research in BSOS. Funds will support the formation of interdisciplinary research teams with resources to develop ideas, conduct research, and seed larger scale projects including an application for external research funding for an individual project or an institutional effort (e.g., center grant, institutional training grant), a highly innovative teaching breakthrough, an impactful scholarly product (e.g., book), creation of a lasting research instrument or large-scale data set that would support interdisciplinary efforts across BSOS/Campus, and/or implementation of a transformative program at the university or in the community.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 2  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $30,000  
   **Requirements:** Proposals must include at least two faculty members and at least two different departments within BSOS. Additional collaborators are encouraged from across and outside of campus.

2. **Level 1 Seed Projects (L1)**
   **Goal:** To support research projects, with the specific purpose of seeding future external funding applications. Level 1 Awards will support projects of smaller scale and/or at an early stage of development.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 6  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $10,000  
   **Requirements:** None (open to all faculty)  
   **Additional Notes:** Awards can be used to support a currently unfunded project or a partially/fully funded project that could be expanded significantly with additional funds. In the latter case, the application must thoroughly differentiate the aspects of the project currently funded and the new aspects to be funded by the seed funding, as well as how the seed funding increases the likelihood of additional external funding and scholarly products beyond what would be possible with the original funding.

3. **Level 2 Seed Projects (L2)**
   **Goal:** To support research projects, with the specific purpose of seeding future external funding applications. Level 2 Awards will support projects of larger scale and/or at a more advanced stage of development. Unfunded Level 2 proposals will automatically be considered for Level 1 awards.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 3  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $20,000  
   **Requirements:** None (open to all faculty)  
   **Additional Notes:** See Additional Notes for Level 1 Seed Projects.

4. **Junior Faculty International Research Award (IA)**
Goal: To support the development or the cultivation of international research collaborations by junior faculty in the college. The proposal should describe an active or potential collaborative relationship with an international partner and why funding would further the faculty member’s trajectory as a scientist. Travel funding should be for efforts to further the collaboration, not for conference travel.

**Maximum Number of Awards:** 3  
**Maximum Amount per award:** $6,000

**Requirements:** Open to untenured faculty members with appointments in BSOS.

**Additional Notes:** In two pages, the proposal should explain why the collaborator and his or her institution represent promising partners, what activities the faculty member intends to engage in with funding, why the activities will advance the faculty member’s trajectory as a scientist, and how the collaboration will benefit the institution. Benefits might be the PI acquiring new skills, enhancing the international presence and reputation of our college and university, or seeding education programs or collaborative grant proposals.

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### Graduate Student Awards

1. **Master’s Thesis / Pre-candidacy Research (MT)**  
**Goal:** To support Master’s Thesis or comparable pre-candidacy research expenditures (e.g., participant payments). Any requested travel funds should be used for improving the quality of research, not for conference travel. Funds cannot be used to supplement stipends.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 5  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $1,500

   **Requirements:** Must be in good standing in their program and in their first four years since entry into the program. Preference will be given to projects that support Master’s Theses, but students may apply for funds in this category for any pre-candidacy projects.

2. **Doctoral Dissertation Research (DD)**  
**Goal:** To support doctoral dissertation research expenditures (e.g., participant payment). Any requested travel funds should be used for improving the quality of research, not for conference travel. Funds cannot be used to supplement stipends.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 5  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $2,500

   **Requirements:** Must be in good standing and within the first six years in their program, have advanced to candidacy, and yet to complete the dissertation project.

3. **Graduate Student Travel Awards (GT)**  
**Goal:** To support graduate student travel expenditures (e.g., travel to conferences to present research). Funds cannot be used to supplement stipends.

   **Maximum Number of Awards:** 5  
   **Maximum Amount per award:** $1,000

   **Requirements:** Must be in good standing in their program. Funding request must be split 50%/50% by the student’s department and the Dean’s Office.

   **Additional note:** Proposals should be two pages in length and explain why funding would benefit the student’s professional development as a scientist.
1. **Mentored Undergraduate Research Teams (MU)**

**Goal:** To support creative efforts to provide outstanding undergraduate research experiences. Mentorship can be provided by a single faculty member or a group of faculty. Funds should be utilized to stimulate student growth including a range of research costs (e.g., participant payment or travel for data collection) and conference travel. Payment to students or coverage of tuition associated directly with the research experience will be considered if coverage of these costs are the best use of the available funds for the development of the students involved.

*Maximum Number of Awards:* 4  
*Maximum Amount per award:* $2,500  

**Requirements:** Must include at least two undergraduate students and have training aspects that are not already in place.  

**Additional Notes:** Students should be BSOS majors unless the application includes a clear statement arguing for the value of targeting students outside of BSOS. In unusual cases and depending on the number of applications in this category, we might consider requests that require more than the maximum award amount of $2,500 if the proposal is particularly innovative and a strong case is made for why more funding is necessary. Proposals should be two pages and explain in detail the proposed activities and benefits to the development of the undergraduate students.