

UC RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FUND

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS) has limited funds available for the one-time support of projects to stimulate multi-campus or system-wide research. Funds are to pilot or seed new projects that can demonstrate a strong “systemwide benefit” to UC research and enhance UC’s ability to compete for funding, advance research discoveries, support innovative graduate student research, inform public policy or otherwise impact the lives of Californians.

Projects must have strong campus support and a clear path for development into long-term, self-sustaining programs. Funding is open to all fields, and may be used for (but is not limited to):

- **Workshops or Meetings** to establish new system-wide research initiatives or collaborations;
- **Grant Development** or planning for large, multi-campus extramural funding proposals;
- **Public Outreach** initiatives which can effectively communicate the impact of research discoveries;
- **Industry Outreach** efforts to better engage researchers from UC with industry partners; or
- Other projects of system-wide benefit to UC research. See below for examples.

Typical requests should be no more than \$20,000. The scope of activities should be limited to one-to-two years for most projects. *Projects eligible for competitive grant funding through the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) should apply through the appropriate grant programs (See FAQs below for more detail).*

Quarterly Submission Deadlines:

Spring 2012:	May 14, 2012
Summer 2012:	July 30, 2012
Fall 2012:	November 1, 2012
Winter 2013:	January 24, 2012

Requests for Funding. Requests are accepted at any time and are reviewed on a quarterly basis (see deadlines). To submit a request, email the following information and materials to orgs@ucop.edu:

- Names of participating faculty (include campus or national lab affiliation);
- One page description of proposed activities and demonstration of systemwide research benefit and outcomes (see below);
- Anticipated project outcomes and deliverables;
- One page budget and justification (include total budget, UCOP request and other sources of funding);
- Letter(s) of support from the Vice Chancellor(s) for Research at participating campuses;
- Letter(s) of commitment of resources or funds from supporting campuses (where applicable);
- UCOP sponsor endorsement (strongly encouraged).

UCOP Sponsor. Applicants are strongly advised to discuss their project with a UCOP sponsor to help determine if it is appropriate for systemwide research funding. For sponsor help, contact orgs@ucop.edu.

Systemwide Research Benefits and Outcomes.

Describe how the outcomes and deliverables of your project will benefit UC as a system. For example:

What is the strategic opportunity for UC? *Is this a field of particular relevance to UC campuses or California? Is it a fast-growing field or an issue of public concern? Why this field, and not another?*

What is the external funding potential of this project? *How will your project enhance UC’s position to compete for this funding? How will your project become self-supporting in the future?*

What is new and innovative about your approach? *Are there other comparable efforts at UC? How are they involved with your project? How will this work to strengthen UC as a system?*

How will this project share knowledge or resources across campuses? *Will this project develop unique shared facilities, resources or knowledge pools not currently available? How will your project foster new partnerships, collaborations or efficiencies? How will you measure your success in this?*

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What types of projects do you fund?

Funding is for small, new projects that can generate long-term systemwide benefit, growth and impact to UC research across all campuses. See details provided in the Overview (above) and examples of recently funded projects (below). All projects must have strong support from your campuses and Vice Chancellors for Research.

Who is eligible to submit a funding request?

Faculty or staff at any UC campus.

How do I find a UCOP Sponsor?

A UCOP Sponsor is a valuable partner in evaluating the systemwide benefit of your project and determining whether it is an appropriate use of systemwide funds. Sponsors are also asked to help follow-up on the results of your project. It is strongly encouraged that you speak with a UCOP sponsor prior to submitting a funding request. If you do not currently know anyone at UCOP who can advise you, please contact orgs@ucop.edu for help in finding a sponsor. You may also wish to review the list of recently funded projects and sponsors below.

How are funding requests evaluated?

The Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies has formed a committee of UCOP executives to advise on the selection of projects. This group discusses the potential systemwide benefits and impacts of proposed projects and makes recommendations to the Vice President.

Is there a deadline to submit a request? Requests are reviewed on a quarterly basis, and will be awarded until funds are no longer available. Submission deadlines are listed above.

Can I submit a request for more than \$20,000?

Larger requests may be considered in rare cases for programs of unusually large impact.

Is there a campus matching requirement?

Successful projects must have strong support from UC campuses. Matching funds are strongly preferred.

Is there a multi-campus requirement?

All projects must explain how they can achieve long-term results that will benefit UC research *as a system*. For projects based at a single campus, this argument may be more challenging, but it is not prohibited.

Should I submit a Research Opportunity Funds request, or apply for a MRPI or RGPO grant?

Research Opportunity Funds are not distributed as a grant. These funds are intended to support projects in areas not already funded through our regular grant-making programs. If you qualify for the MRPI grant program (or for any other RGPO program), you should submit your application through that program (see [RGPO website](#) for more details). Projects eligible to apply for the MRPI grant program (or which have been submitted for review and were not funded) will not be considered.

May I propose a project to plan future proposals for an MRPI or RGPO grant? No. These funds are meant to help seed new collaborations or projects to attract *external* funding.

Will funding be available for renewal?

No. These are one-time funding requests only.

Are there any special reporting or administrative requirements? There are no special reporting or administrative requirements outside of those regularly required by your campuses. However, we appreciate hearing from you about the success of your programs or projects, to help us gauge the impact of these funds. Your UCOP sponsor will be asked to work with you to provide a brief report on the outcomes of your project.

Join our Mailing List. For email updates and reminders, sign-up at <http://tinyurl.com/UCROF-L>.

Contact Us. For more information or help with your funding request, please contact orgs@ucop.edu.

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RECENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS

UC Working Group on Climate, Environment and Human Capital Research

Principal Investigator: Joshua Graff-Ziven, UCSD

UCOP Sponsor: Mary Croughan

Funds to support a start-up conference establishing a new working group to explore and shape an emerging field where UC is already doing pioneering work. Attracting scholars in multiple disciplines from five UC campuses, this project leverages funding from UC San Diego and the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation to plan, collaborate, and compete for external funding, helping to position UC as a leader in a growing, new field.

UC Systemwide SNAAP survey

Principal Investigators: Kim Yasuda & Holly Unruh, UCSB

UCOP Sponsor: Dante Noto

Support for UC systemwide participation in the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project survey - a national survey which investigates career and economic outcomes of arts graduates. This study will examine what happens to our arts students after they leave UC, what they are doing with their degrees, and how well their education has served them in their careers. Data will be benchmarked against nation-wide results, helping determine what sets UC apart. With support and leadership from the UC Institute for Research in the Arts and matching campus funds, this project will enable all UC campuses to participate for one year to demonstrate its value for campuses to consider for future funding.

UC Fibroid Research Network

Principal Investigator: Vanessa Jacoby, UCSF

UCOP Sponsor: John Stobo

Funds to network resources from across five UC campuses to study the comparative effectiveness of surgical treatments for women with uterine fibroids. These types of clinical studies are a top priority for major funding agencies like the NIH and AHQR. Both agencies have also identified uterine fibroids as a high priority content area,

affecting over 25% of premenopausal women. By combining experts and funding from UC's five medical schools, and developing a secure, central database to support multi-campus studies, this project enables access to a UC-wide patient base and mobilizes the unique surgical expertise available at UC to make a real difference in this type of research.

Virtual Venues Demonstration Project

Principal Investigator: John Crawford, UCI

UCOP Sponsor: Susan Carlson

Support for a series of performing arts concerts designed to explore and expand the capabilities for telepresence and multisite collaborative work across the UC system. Starting with three campuses, this project will develop and present a series of networked performances, using advanced digital media technologies, which will serve as a "proof-of-concept" to help secure external funding for a larger, multi-year program that can expand to link all ten UC campuses.

UC-Natural Reserve System Phenology Network: Tracking Spring on a Changing Planet

Principal Investigator: Susan Mazer, UCSB

UCOP Sponsor: Peggy Fiedler

Support to develop a phenological monitoring network across seven UC natural reserves to study the effects of climate change upon seasonal events in nature. Building on similar efforts with the National Park System, this project will train students and volunteers to collect data on the life cycles of the diverse flora and fauna, utilizing the unique resources of our natural reserves to help generate data sets of critical value to understanding changes in CA climates.

UC Impact on regional innovation and entrepreneurship

Principal Investigator: Martin Kenney, UCD;

UCOP Sponsor: Christophe Lecuyer

Support for an edited book on UC's role in technology transfer and economic development through university-based innovation and entrepreneurship. Partnering with UC Press, this book will study the UC's effects on the state economy, examining the impact and value of publicly funded research universities.

And many more...