

Sponsored Projects Incentives

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Examples of Various Incentives, Including Seed Funding Programs, at Universities

Institution	Description	Notes
UC Irvine	Centers grant program: \$40k to support submission of a proposal to an extramural agency that asks for more than \$500k/yr. Process: mini-proposal to describe the project and why they need the money (pilot data, hire a grant writer, grad student support, teaching release, etc.). When awarded, they get \$20k up front, then \$20k when they submit the proposal. Frequency 2-4 times a year.	
UC Irvine	Grad Division program: Up to \$40k is provided for <i>grad student funding</i> in support of a new grad program or a training grant application.	
UC Berkeley	Research Futures Program: Up to 6 \$50k grants per year to encourage large, complex grant submissions. Program cancelled in 2008, largely due to the budget crisis.	Mixed reviews as to whether they were worthwhile - the Office of Research generally seemed to feel they weren't the most effective use of funds.
Northwestern	Multiple programs for pilot/seed funding	http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/collaboration-resources/pilot-funding/
UC Irvine	Some schools give an indirect incentive, by providing a portion of indirect cost return (a few % of awarded grants) in discretionary funds.	
UC Irvine, School of Computer Sciences	No specifics – email Venita De Souza for more info	
U Maryland	Faculty can apply for small amounts of funding for a) obtaining pilot data or research to finish a scholarly work, b) funding to prepare a proposal for a large, high-impact program that has an announcement on the street, or c) start up funds and some returned F&A to apply for a center grant.	
U Maryland	The VP for Research has several seed grant programs with federal and corporate partners where both parties put up the funding for one year projects which include a PI from each partner. I am not sure how effective these programs are but our funding increased by 30% to over 500 million last year (with only several thousand coming from federal stimulus dollars).	
U Maryland	Resources into technical editing and graphic illustrations for large proposals.	

Radford	Seed grants up to \$20k.	HUGE dollar amount if you asked me but with very little return on investment.
Radford	Funding for proposal development to hire clerical or editorial assistance to get the job done, up to \$5k which still exceeds the typical seed grant at my previous institution and which had a much higher return on investment.	
Radford	“Meet the Sponsor” funding. In 2010, 12 faculty (most of whom had never submitted a grant) attended the NIH Seminar. They met much of the OER’s leadership and learned a great deal. At least 3 proposals were submitted and some great opportunities for networking were gained.	
George Mason	traditional seed grant program	
George Mason	Collaborative funding program with a local health system. Our faculty must partner with researchers from the health system and submit collaborative proposals.	Just finishing the first year of funding so it will be interesting to see which projects will develop into efforts toward extramural grant funding.
College of Management at NC State University	We have expanded one internal grant program (increased award amount and increased # of awards) and created another that are funded completely from the College's budget. The first is targeted mainly to junior faculty (\$10,000) and the other is wide open (\$15,000). Both programs have a deliverable requirement that must be met in order for the PI to receive full funding.	On the \$10,000 grants PIs have access to \$8,000 upon notice of award and then must submit results from the project either to a conference, journal, or external funding agency to receive the additional \$2,000. PIs have one year from the date of award to meet the deliverable requirement. For the \$15,000 grants PIs have access to \$10,500 upon notice of award and then must submit a proposal for external funding within one year of award to receive the additional \$4,500.
U Tenn	GRANT WRITING BOOT CAMP. Officially known as the UT Grant Writing Institute, this is an intensive summer session for selected junior faculty, with a series of workshops, homework and reading assignments in between, and a “Trip to DC” event where each participant meets with a grant program officer. Each faculty member is paired with a senior faculty mentor and may also nominate a graduate student to join in all boot camp activities. To assure a full-time commitment, each participant receives a stipend equal to teaching one summer course. Following the summer workshops, participants are paired with a member of our Proposal Development Team to continue working on proposals slated for submission in the fall. Costs are shared 50/50 with a co-sponsor college. After 3 summers of doing this at Virginia Tech we found the return on investment has been	

	quite impressive, making it an easy sell here.	
CUNY	<p>CUNY RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM</p> <p>http://www.cuny.edu/research/faculty-resources/internal-funding-programs/research-equipment-grant.html</p> <p>The goal for this initiative is for internal grants to help investigators purchase an item of laboratory equipment that will strengthen their research program, and thus assist them in applications for external research funding in the near future. Proposals must involve at least two faculty from one college, or among CUNY colleges.</p>	
U South Alabama	<p>Vice President Incentive Program: On proposal submission, PIs get \$1000 and co-PIs get \$500, when awarded, PIs get \$2000 and co-PIs get \$500. Proposals must exceed a minimum of \$50k in direct costs to a Federal Agency. Proposals had to be peer reviewed and signed off by PI's department chair to be eligible.</p>	<p>March1, 2009 – Sept 30, 2010. 109% increase in number of proposals submitted, 39.6% increase in number of awarded proposals. Spent a total of \$441k in incentives funds, awards under this program totaled almost \$45Million. The program was reinstated in April 2011, with \$1k going to proposers (in total) and \$2k going to award back end.</p>
U Michigan – Ann Arbor	<p>Associate Professor Support Fund.</p> <p>Award size \$50-100K; ~8 awards given per year.</p> <p>Awards are for newly tenured associate professors. Individuals submit a 4-page white paper, budget, teaching/service record and evaluation letter from their department chair. Proposals evaluated by committee of senior faculty.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2010-2011; 16 grants awarded to date, totaling \$1.2M.</p>
Harvard	<p>Career Incubator Fund in School of Public Health.</p> <p>Award size \$50K for one year; possibility for one-year renewal. 4 awards given per year.</p> <p>Award is for assistant/associate profs within 3-8 years of initial appointment; goal is to support faculty who are approaching a funding cliff as their start-up packages are depleted. Individuals submit a 5-page white paper, biosketch, current/pending, business plan to secure future external funding and budget. Proposals are evaluated by a committee of senior faculty.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2010-2011.</p>

Examples of Multidisciplinary Seed Funding Programs at Universities

Institution	Description	Notes
U Minnesota	<p>Minnesota Futures Grant Program: \$3.25M invested to date, funded by IC return given by colleges to VPR.</p> <p>Award size \$250K; 2-3 awards given per year.</p> <p>Proposing teams must not have worked together for more than 1 year. Teams submit a 15-page proposal including description of potential for future funding. Proposals are evaluated by faculty peer review.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2008.</p> <p>13 seed grants awarded to date; 7 of these resulted in a total of 14 external grants, totaling \$18M. (450% ROI on the \$3.25M investment)</p>
U Michigan – Ann Arbor	<p>M-Cubed: \$15M invested to date: \$5M from provost; \$10M from colleges of science, engineering and med school.</p> <p>Award size \$60K; ~125 awards given out in the first year (approximately half went to med school).</p> <p>Each faculty member in the college receives a \$20,000 "voucher," which can be redeemed by forming a \$60,000 "cube" with two other faculty members from different departments; cubes may coalesce together around a single idea to create an internal center. There is *no* formal review; the agreement to “cube” and share funds is expected to be self-regulating.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2012; currently operating on a two-year pilot basis</p>
U Illinois – Urbana/Champaign	<p>Interdisciplinary Innovation Initiative (I3) Program: \$1.86M invested to date, funded by Vice Chancellor, Beckman Institute and college of engineering and arts/science.</p> <p>Award size \$100K; about 13 awards given per year.</p> <p>Proposals must represent new collaborations among faculty and must not be extensions of a currently funded activity; must have long-term prospect for external funding support. Faculty teams submit a 5-page white paper, budget and explanation of PI/Co-PI roles. Proposals are evaluated by a 16-member committee including senior faculty and external subject matter experts.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2011-2012.</p>
Texas A&M Univ.	<p>Planning Grant Program: Funded by VPR via IC return.</p> <p>Award size \$100-150K; 2-3 awards given per year.</p> <p>A target external grant >\$3M must be identified to compete for internal funding. Faculty teams submit a 2-page white paper, evidence of conversations with external agency program officers about the future external proposal, a detailed budget/timeline and chairs’/dean’s endorsement. Proposals are evaluated by VPR and deans.</p>	
U Kansas	<p>Provost’s Strategic Initiative Grant Program: \$2M invested to date; funded by provost.</p> <p>Award size \$100-300K; 1-3 awards given per year.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2011-2012; 4 awards given to date.</p>

	<p>Projects must positively impact the university on a timescale >5 years. Funds may be used for infrastructure development and student support, but not for pilot studies. Involved faculty must be cross-department or cross-college. Faculty teams submit 2-3 page white paper, business plan/timeline, budget, support letters from deans and a list of 5 qualified external reviewers. Proposals evaluated by internal and external faculty reviewers.</p>	
Harvard	<p>Multi-Department Seed Fund in School of Public Health – No longer active.</p> <p>\$1.5M total program budget, funded by IC return.</p> <p>Award size \$50-500K; 3 awards given total.</p> <p>Must involve faculty from at least three departments. Faculty teams submit a 5-page white paper, biosketches, current/pending and budget. Proposals evaluated by committee of Dean, Assoc. Dean for Research, and Academic Affairs Dean.</p>	<p>Program ran for one year only, 2009-2010. 2 of 3 funded seeds received external funding.</p> <p>Program was converted to Career Incubator Fund in order to better achieve goal of supporting early-career faculty.</p>
UCSF	<p>Resource Allocation Program</p> <p>Multicenter Start-Up Planning Awards Award size \$20K for one year; not renewable Award is for multicenter clinical trials and prospective cohort studies</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Research Project Planning Awards Award size \$30K for one year; not renewable For clinical and translational research projects</p>	
Lehigh Univ.	<p>Collaborative Research Opportunity (CORE) grants, funded by the Smith Fund for Research and Innovation in Science and Engineering (for science and engineering proposals) and by university funds for all other projects.</p> <p>Award size \$60K for one year</p> <p>Project must involve at least two faculty members. Proposing teams submit a 6-page white paper with project plan and plan to secure external funding, as well as timeline for completion. Proposals are evaluated by Lehigh's internal review committee (nominated by deans).</p>	
Iowa State	<p>College of Engineering Dean's Research Initiatives</p> <p>Award size \$75K for one year; funds are to be used for administrative support and other collaborations necessary to secure the grant, not for research itself.</p> <p>Projects must be in research areas that are core to the college's signature areas. Strong involvement of companies is expected – industry participation and commitment is required.</p> <p>Proposing teams submit a three-page white paper, budget, supporting letters from industry and biosketches. Proposals are evaluated by internal and external reviewers.</p>	<p>Program initiated in 2011. Three projects funded to date, each at a level of \$500K or more.</p>

Univ. Toledo	<p>Interdisciplinary Research Initiation Awards</p> <p>Award size \$100K for one year; may be used for summer salary, support personnel, research supplies or other expenses as needed to prepare for external grant competition</p> <p>Project must involve at least four faculty members. Proposing teams submit a 12-page project description, plan to secure external funding, budgets and biosketches, as well as a management plan that outlines roles/responsibilities. Proposals evaluated by external reviewers.</p>	2-4 projects funded per year between 2008-present; 5 of those have received external funding
U. Rochester	<p>Provost's Multidisciplinary Research Awards, \$250,000 annual budget from Provost</p> <p>Award size \$75K for one year; 5-6 awards granted each year</p> <p>Project must involve at least two faculty members. Proposing teams submit a white paper, budget, biosketches and descriptions of other support available to investigators. Proposals evaluated by faculty review committee appointed by Provost.</p>	Program initiated in 2008; 27 awards granted to date
Old Dominion Univ.	<p>Multidisciplinary Seed Funding Program; managed by ODU Office of Research</p> <p>Award size up to \$100K for 6 months; average award size \$75K; 5-7 awards granted each year</p> <p>Cross-college collaborations are particularly encouraged. Previous award winners may not receive the funding again, but may participate with new teams as unpaid consultants.</p>	Program initiated in 2005; 44 awards given to date.
CUNY	<p>COLLABORATIVE INCENTIVE GRANT:</p> <p>http://www.cuny.edu/research/faculty-resources/internal-funding-programs/collaborative-incentive-grant.html</p> <p>The purpose of the Collaborative Incentive Research Grants (CIRG) Program is to enhance, through multi-campus or multi-disciplinary collaborations, the prestige and prominence of the University to a national and international audience. The program is administered by a review committee chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Research and faculty chosen from among the Senior Faculty at the CUNY campuses.</p> <p>Since its inception in 1994, the University has encouraged faculty to address problems that will lead to new and future areas of multi-campus or multi-disciplinary research strengths. This is consistent with the fact that the program is funded from the indirect costs recovered from successful faculty grant proposals, and explains why a</p>	

	<p>major goal is to seed research that will become the basis of new external grant proposals.</p> <p>To lay the groundwork for future grant submissions, the collaborative team must contact a program officer at a federal or state agency or foundation to discuss with that individual whether their proposed research would fit within the guidelines of their funding program.</p>	
U Tennessee - ORUs	<p>For senior faculty with some experience in sponsored research, the ORU program provides seed funding to encourage the formation of new interdisciplinary research teams. To obtain funding, applicants must first submit a white paper outlining the proposed group's mission and purpose, membership, funding strategies, action plan for the coming year, and a requested budget. Later they present oral briefings at a public session with open attendance. ORUs seeking another round of funding must present progress reports, plus a justification for continued finding. Following this, the research staff meets to determine which groups get funded (some do not), and whether they get their full request, or a percentage thereof. Our expectation is that each funded ORU will attain a 5:1 return on investment within 3 years. Too soon to tell whether we've been successful in stimulating new IDR.</p>	
George Mason, College of Science	<p>Small internal interdisciplinary grants program for junior faculty. The junior faculty, who were required to partner with junior faculty in another discipline, were mentored by a senior faculty member during the grant writing process.</p>	<p>I have seen proposals from this program result in submissions for external funding. In fact, one of the proposals was selected as an institutional submission after a limited submission review. Unfortunately, this program is on hold this year because of cuts in state funding.</p>
UC Irvine	<p>specialized: \$10-25k for collaborations spanning Basic and Clinical Medicine, and one other department (Engineering, Bio or PhysSci), a \$40k award for major interdisciplinary Center-type submissions involving Computer Science and Engineering, \$25-50k graduate support awards from Grad Division for training grants or new grad programs.</p>	<p>They seem to be received favorably, but too soon to tell how much impact they are having.</p>
UC Irvine	<p><u>Medical Triumvirate Grant program:</u> Seed funding (to prepare pilot data, generally for an NIH R01 submission) given to a team that must have one clinical, one medical research and one non-medical faculty on it. Applications reviewed by campus review, and the top team gets a total award of \$50k to help further their project. Runner up gets \$15k, third get \$10k.</p>	