The Interdisciplinary Research Program at UT Arlington
Request for Proposals
For projects to be undertaken between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016

Program Scope and Summary:

The Office of the President is pleased to launch the Interdisciplinary Research Program (IRP). The IRP is intended to advance interdisciplinary research at UTA in alignment with the four guiding themes of the strategic plan: Health and the Human Condition, Sustainable Urban Communities, Global Environmental Impact, and Data-Driven Discovery. As these guiding themes are inherently interdisciplinary, this program fosters the necessary work across campus to improve our ability to effectively compete for major extramural research grant funding on these topics. As such, the IRP gives preference to proposals that span interdisciplinary work across groups that don’t typically collaborate. A requirement of IRP award recipients is submission of at least one interdisciplinary research proposal to an extramural funding source by the end of the award period.

This document serves as a request for proposals (RFP) and outlines the policies of the program. The IRP provides one-year grants to sponsor interdisciplinary research and professional creative activities. The maximum allowable budget for any one successful proposal is $20,000. IRP proposals must be submitted on or before June 15th, according to the instructions in this RFP and funds will be made available to each winning team on or before August 1st.

Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team that represents expertise from across the campus. Results of the review will be provided to the Vice President for Research, who will make awards in consultation with the President.

Successful IRP grant submissions must:

- clearly articulate alignment between the proposed research or professional creative activity and the strategic plan to advance our capability to provide intellectual leadership for one of our guiding themes.
- describe the proposed effort, a rough timeline and deliverables, and how the proposed effort advances an interdisciplinary research topic.
- effectively describe the roles of each member of the proposal team and how the proposed interdisciplinary team will work together to take on the proposed research topic and how they will work to develop sustained, follow-on extramural funding for this work into the future.
- clearly identify the extramural funding opportunities for this interdisciplinary work and provide a credible plan for pursuing those opportunities to satisfy the minimum requirement of at least one proposal submitted to an extramural funding source by the end of the program award period.

Proposal reviews will be based on how well each of these criteria is addressed.
Proposal Submissions:

All proposals must be submitted through the IRP Sharepoint site. Log into the system using your NetID and password. Please note that only one author should upload the proposal as a single PDF document. This individual will serve as the point of contact for the proposal regarding notifications of award status. For technical questions regarding the online submission process, please email sharepoint@uta.edu. Please write Interdisciplinary Research Program in the subject line. For all other questions and comments about the Interdisciplinary Research Program, please contact Dr. Duane Dimos, Vice President for Research, at ddimos@uta.edu. Once proposals have been submitted online, they will be made available through the VPR to the IRP Committee for review.

| Submissions will be accepted beginning 9:00 AM on Monday, June 8, 2015. |
| Submissions will no longer be accepted after 12:00 AM, Monday, June 15, 2015. |

The online IRP application should be submitted as a single PDF document that includes:

1. Title page (1 page). All authors/investigators and their respective units should be listed.
2. Proposal description (2 pages maximum, including any references), single-spaced, 11 or 12 font type, and written in clear, jargon-free English. Proposal descriptions should include reference to background information on which the proposal is based, the importance of its contribution to its field of study, its objectives, the methods or activities required to carry out the work, a rough timeline, the significance of its anticipated results and how it will increase the team's potential for external funding, including the external agencies that will be approached for funding based on the proposed effort.
3. Budget and Budget Justification (approximately 1 page).
4. Brief bio (preferably one paragraph) for the Principal Investigator and each team member, indicating their experience in this research area.

Eligibility: Any team of full-time tenured, tenure-track faculty or research staff members of The University of Texas at Arlington is eligible to apply for an Interdisciplinary Research Program grant. There is no restriction on the number of proposals that will be accepted for review that involve a particular faculty member during any one funding period.

Policies: Interdisciplinary Research Program grants are given specifically for the support of research activity. IRP grant funds may be used for materials and supplies, salary for graduate research assistants, wages for hourly employees (including undergraduate research assistants), travel to external funding agencies, and research travel. Capital equipment is only allowable when deemed essential for data collection. IRP grants funds are not to be used for: faculty salary, engaging consultants, preparing textbooks, revising courses, preparing class notes, performing editorial duties, compiling bibliographies and catalogs, engaging in research for or preparation of the applicant’s thesis or dissertation, or purchasing instructional equipment or equipment that will primarily be used for other ongoing research. All funds awarded must be expended by the applicant(s) for the specific project described in the application within the time frame of the program. No extensions will be granted.

The IRP Review Committee: The IRP Committee is composed of members appointed by the President. While members of the committee are from different colleges/schools in order to assure a range of expertise, members do not serve in an advocacy role for their units. Review members will recuse themselves from evaluating proposals where a conflict of interest may exist.
Grant Period: The award period for the Interdisciplinary Research Program grants will be the 12-month period beginning August 1, 2015 and ending July 31, 2016. Grant funds cannot be carried forward; on August 1, 2016, all unspent funds will revert to the Interdisciplinary Research Program.

Responsibilities of Grantees:
External Grant Writing, Publication and Documentation of Results: Recipients of Interdisciplinary Research Program grants are obligated to seek external funding in the form of at least one application to an external funding agency during the period of performance. In addition, awardees are encouraged to publish the results of their research in professional journals, monographs, or books. Grantees will also provide brief quarterly updates (1 page or less) on the progress of the work and progress towards proposal development and sponsor engagement. These reports will be submitted to the Vice President for Research, who will also discuss research progress at appropriate times through the period of funding. A final report is due no later than July 31, 2016. The final report should include:

1. information on federal or state agency or private foundation grants applied for as a result of Interdisciplinary Research Program supported projects;
2. lists of reports, publications, or titles of papers presented at professional meetings; and
3. copies of publications (or drafts of publications) resulting from Interdisciplinary Research Program funded projects.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (including Grants and Contract Services, Regulatory Services and Technology Management) is available to assist grantees with reporting requirements and proposal submissions to external agencies.

Fiscal Management of Grant Funds: All IRP grant expenditures will be governed by the same regulations that control other University budgets. The Principal Investigator of an Interdisciplinary Research Program grant is responsible for the fiscal management of the grant funds.

Research Compliance: All IRP grant awardees must be in full compliance with all applicable policies and regulations governing the use of human subjects in research, use of animals in research, bio-safety, and responsible conduct of research. More information may be obtained from the Office of Regulatory Services.

Award Notification
Applicants will be notified by the Office of the Vice President for Research by July 15th, 2015 of funding decisions for their application.

Member of the IRP Committee (2015-2016)
The Office of the President invites faculty who do not plan to submit a proposal to serve on the IRP Review Committee for the 2015-2016 cycle. Please send an email to Dr. Ashley Purgason at purgason@uta.edu if you wish to be considered for service on the Committee.

The Office of the President would like to extend a special thanks to the IRP faculty contributors that helped to design and launch this initiative:
Kevin Schug (Science), Jodi Tommerdahl (Education), Kim Van Noort (University College, Liberal Arts), Andrew Makeev (Engineering), Anand Puppala (Engineering), Pranesh Aswath (Engineering), Bradley Bell (Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs), Erian Armanios (Engineering), Krystal Beamon (Liberal Arts), and Ashley Purgason (Office of the President).