Maverick Science New Directions Funding Program (MavS ND)

Office of the Dean, College of Science

Download the Cover Page, Budget Template and Final Grant Report

Proposal deadline: July 1, 2018
Notification of award: August 15, 2018
Projected award start date: September 1, 2018
Duration: 1 year, typically (but up to 2 years or request for extensions will be considered)
Anticipated award amount: $25,000 from COS + Department/other College commitment

The Maverick Science New Directions Funding Program (MavS ND) at UT Arlington aims to support College of Science faculty research and programs, potentially together with collaborators, that advance the University’s and College’s research productivity, strategic plan, scholarly output, and creative endeavors through a competitive funding process. Augmentation of the funds awarded through the MavS ND by the departments and other colleges represented by the faculty applicants is highly encouraged as a show of support and commitment.

The MavS ND is designed to encourage the pursuit of new research directions and the acquisition of data befitting a follow-on grant proposal submission. COS faculty funded through the program are required to submit a related extramural grant proposal(s) upon the completion of the project, as appropriate to the discipline, within one year of the project end date. A two page report, detailing the activities, accomplishments, and deliverables (proposal submission plan) must be submitted to the COS within two months of the completion of the project.

In general, these grants are open to full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty. A COS faculty member may team with one or more other faculty members within or outside of the College. Priority will be given to supporting faculty currently without extensive funding.

The primary objective of the MavSFRP is to foster an environment of collaborative research and scholarship in the College of Science and across campus. Although this program is open to all disciplines, proposals focused on the major initiatives in College of Science Strategic Plan will be
given preference. Proposals incorporating support of Ph.D.-level graduate students are highly encouraged.

Situations likely to be receptive for funding by MavS ND include:

- A **collaborative new direction with multiple investigators**, led by a COS faculty member. In the cover sheet, you are asked to describe how this is a new direction, and how pursuing this new direction is justified by new opportunities for funding;

- A **bridge to support research on a topic that is close to being funded** (has received favorable scores from e.g. NIH, NSF, etc.). In the cover sheet, you are asked to provide a synopsis of the prior grant submission, the score received, an interpretation of that score with regards to funding levels, and an overview of the items that need to be addressed (presumably, using this support) to achieve funding of the proposal in a subsequent submission; or

- A **path to non-traditional funding**, which incorporates an external industrial/corporate/foundation partner, primed to support subsequent research after proof-of-principle (presumably accomplished based on this support). In the cover sheet, describe the arrangement/partnership in brief. Include a separate letter of support from the prospective research partner. The cover letter from the partner need not fully commit to future funding, but should at least indicate an openness to further funding following successful completion of the proposed project.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

Proposal format: The font (Times New Roman or similar) must be a minimum of 12 point with single line spacing and one inch margins on all sides. Footnotes and appendices are not allowed. Incomplete or late proposals, proposals that do not follow the prescribed format, proposals not responsive to this announcement, and proposals that do not adhere to the guidelines will not be reviewed.

Cover Page: The **cover sheet** must be completed in full. Each proposal cover sheet must bear the signatures of the PI(s) and the department Chair. For multiple departments and colleges, signatures are required for all PIs and Chairs, as appropriate.

Project Description: Following the cover page, a concise Project Description should be included. This section is limited to three to five single-spaced pages including figures and tables, but excluding references. The project description must be a full account of the proposed research/scholarship project. Typically, a grant proposal contains the following sections: introduction, project goals and objectives, significance/rationale of the research, methodology, study design and data analysis, evaluation, and broader impacts. The proposal must be complete and readable in order for the reviewers to evaluate it properly. The language of the proposal should be understandable by faculty members who may not be familiar with your particular discipline or research area, yet must be technically detailed enough to describe the proposed work.

Literature cited: Include all of the references that were cited in the main body of the proposal. The format is flexible but sufficient information should be provided for each citation so that the reader can retrieve any publications of interest.
Budget: Please use the budget sheet for this program and fill out as completely as possible. A maximum of $25,000 in funds can be requested from the College of Science. Incomplete budgets or those that exceed the specified limits may result in the proposal being declined without review. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries during the academic year or the summer. Computers, tablets, and other computational hardware, except in well-justified exigencies, are not eligible. Software may be approved if justified and is directly related to the research activities described in the proposal. Domestic travel to consult collaborators or support research is allowed up to a maximum of $1,500. International travel is not allowed, except with special permission. Supplies and materials, minor (non-capital) equipment, student assistant wages, and specific services are allowable expenses. Any matching or additional funds that are available to supplement the requested funds and active grants must be mentioned in the application.

Department/other College monetary commitment (highly encouraged): Investigators are highly encouraged to negotiate contributions from their respective departments/colleges in order to augment the grant funds offered by COS. An amount of up to $5,000 from each department represented by an applicant, or up to $10,000 if investigators are from another college, to augment the money supplied by the COS is highly encouraged to be incorporated into the budget and project proposal. Proposals without committed additional support will still be considered, but will be judged less favorably than those, which include such a commitment. In-kind contributions (e.g., course release funded by department, free instrument use, etc.) will also be considered.

Budget justification: Maximum of one page. The budget justification must include a short description of the purpose and rationale for each line item in the budget. Please provide as much detail as possible.

Biosketch: A maximum of two-page (NSF style) biographical sketch per PI/co-PI that includes education, professional preparation, peer-reviewed items of research, scholarship, or creative activities during the last 3 years. The biosketch should include a listing of current and pending grants. A short paragraph describing research, scholarship, or creative activities may be included, but is not essential.

Approvals and permissions: If the proposal involves research protocols that require approval from a committee (animal care, human subjects, hazardous materials, etc.), this must be indicated on the cover page. Any other permissions (such as private or public land and water use, collection permits, use of off-campus facilities, etc.) must also be indicated. If the award is granted, funds will not be released until the appropriate approvals/permits are completed/possessed.

Deadline and Submission of applications: Each proposal must be submitted as a SINGLE PDF file by e-mail to kschug@uta.edu on or before 5 PM, Tuesday, July 3, 2018. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document. Proposals submitted in multiple parts will be returned without review. Each proposal must bear the approval signatures of the PI(s) and the department Chair(s). Electronic/digital signatures are acceptable. Recipients will be informed of the outcome in August. Funds will be disbursed by September 1 and must be spent by the end of the agreed duration (e.g., 1 year, by August 31, 2019). Any unspent funds provided by the COS will revert back to the COS.
Eligibility: Adjunct and other part-time faculty are not eligible for this funding. Faculty with a primarily clinical focus are eligible to apply, provided they attach a letter from the unit head stating that research and scholarship is a required position responsibility. Each faculty member is limited to one application on which he or she is the lead PI and one other application as co-PI. Active and current external funding must be declared and will be considered during the proposal evaluation. Eligible faculty may receive this funding once every three years. The grant funds may not be used for faculty salaries.

Questions: Any questions about the grants can be directed to Kevin Schug (kschug@uta.edu) or Ruth Handley (handley@uta.edu).

MERIT REVIEW PROCESS

Each grant proposal will be reviewed by multiple individuals as well as a review panel; the ad-hoc reviewers and panel members may include members of the UT Arlington on-campus faculty and external faculty. The reviewers will rank each proposal within a category (see below) and the review panel will make award recommendations to the COS. The criteria for evaluation of the proposals are as follows.

Criteria for research proposals
1. Significance of the proposal (30 points): The proposed project should improve the faculty member’s knowledge and enable them to conduct additional research in the area of interest. The originality and uniqueness of the proposal will be considered. Applicants must show how they plan to disseminate the results of the research through peer-reviewed publications, presentations at professional conferences, and other appropriate venues. The applicant must demonstrate a grasp of existing knowledge within the area of interest by citing and reviewing relevant literature. Once the project is completed, similar projects are expected to follow.
2. Proposed approach (25 points): The proposal should outline the objectives or specific aims, methodology, expected outcomes, proposed evaluation, plans for future studies, and broader impacts. The proposal’s objectives should be clear and concise and understandable to the reviewers who may not be specialists in the discipline.
3. Feasibility (20 points): The proposal must establish the feasibility of the proposed activities in terms of experimental methods, proposed timeline, and proposed budget. The PI must also demonstrate that the project is feasible with the exiting physical resources and personnel.
4. Applicant’s record and preparation (10 points): The applicant must demonstrate that he/she has the ability to carry out the project. This information can be provided in the biosketch by following the prescribed format.
5. Budget and cost effectiveness (15 points): The proposed budget must be commensurate with the proposed project and well-justified in the budget justification section.

Recommendations:
Once the review of proposals is complete, the following recommendations will be made by the review panel to the Office of the Dean for the College of Science for each proposal.
“Fund, as submitted (with full or revised budget)”: This may result in a proposal being funded as is for the full amount requested. However, the COS may suggest a revised budget to better reflect the proposed activities and reviewers’ evaluation.
“Fund, if possible”: The proposal is deemed worthy of funding by the review panel but not ranked as
highly as the proposals in the previous category. Such proposals may be funded if the budget allows. PIs whose proposals fall in this category are encouraged to resubmit a revised proposal during the next cycle of funding.

“Not recommended, but has merit”: The proposal is generally sound but has some tangible drawbacks and/or weaknesses. A proposal that is revised in response to the review panel’s concerns may be submitted during the next cycle.

“Do not fund”: The proposal has severe weaknesses and drawbacks.

Only proposals rated as ‘fund’ or ‘fund, if possible’ will be awarded. In addition to merit, the final selection of awards will consider available funds and the impact of proposed course releases on departmental teaching.

POST-AWARD RESPONSIBILITIES

All recipients of the internal grants must submit a two-page report using the appropriate form within two months of the termination of the grant period. All award recipients agree to submit an external research proposal during the academic year following the end of the grant period. Faculty who do not submit the required reports and meet other obligations above may be ineligible for future funding.