LAS Seed Grants for Social Science

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is launching a new research initiative, designed to encourage and assist LAS social sciences faculty in their pursuit of scholarly research. The goal of this initiative is to increase scholarly productivity in the social sciences and to enable generation of preliminary results in support of future, extramural grant proposals. Criteria for funding of LAS Seed Grants for Social Science (SGSS) proposals will include evaluation of the merit of the research, its potential disciplinary impact, the potential to generate preliminary results enabling future competitive external funding, and its alignment with one or more of the LAS College Signature Themes (http://www.las.iastate.edu/signature-themes/).

- The LAS College plans to fund 6-7 SGSS grants per year for up to $8000 each. The number of grants funded will be flexible, since the intent is to support highly competitive proposals and to provide maximum impact for the funds invested.
- LAS SGSS proposals will require an explanation of how the proposed research relates to and enhances one or more LAS Signature Themes, in addition to a description of and rationale for the potential disciplinary impact of the research to be supported.
- LAS SGSS proposals can be submitted by individual investigators or small collaborative teams. Awarded funds can be used for any research expenses allowable under university policies (http://www.controller.iastate.edu/accounting/allowability.pdf), except that they cannot be used to fund course releases or faculty summer salary.
- A Departmental cost-share commitment of at least $1000 in support of this specific project is required from the home department of the principal investigator (PI), or of the PIs if the SGSS proposal is collaborative.

Application Process

LAS SGSS proposals should be submitted by 5:00 pm February 1, 2017, to William Gutowski and Nolan McDonald. The application should be no more than three pages (not including budget and justification table), single-spaced, using a 12 point font and one inch margins, and must include the following:

- **Names, ranks and affiliations of investigators.** Provide the full name, academic rank, and organizational and departmental affiliation, and major role for each investigator. The tenure home of all supported investigators must be in the LAS College.
- **Description of the proposed project.** Clearly describe the proposed project, including aims and objectives for the project and a concise description of each investigator’s role.
- **Justification and rationale.** Clearly describe the rationale for the proposed project and any research to be performed, as well as how it relates to and enhances one or more LAS Signature Themes (http://www.las.iastate.edu/signature-themes/).
- **Description of the long-term research goals and activities.** Explain how the proposed research will enhance the investigator’s scholarly productivity and enable future external research grant proposals.
- **Budget and budget justification.** On the Budget Table provided, itemize the requested funding by category, and explain and justify how funds will be used.

Only one application per PI is permitted each year; however, a PI may be a co-PI on other applications.
Review Criteria and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrate meritorious research with a high potential for disciplinary impact, as well as the potential to advance research in one or more of the LAS Signature Themes.
- Demonstrate potential to increase productivity and generate preliminary results needed for future competitive extramural research funding.

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the LAS College administration, informed by reviews from knowledgeable researchers. Therefore, proposals should be written in a manner appropriate for reviewers representing all disciplines, including non-experts. Funding will be available beginning July 1, 2017, and must be spent within that fiscal year.

Research Reports.

Applicants receiving LAS SGSS funding will be expected to provide a report to the LAS Dean within 30 days following the end of the funding, which will normally be June 30, 2018.

The research reports should each include the following:

- Progress toward research productivity goals, including papers published and manuscripts submitted, presentations at conferences, etc.
- A concise (no more than 2 pages) narrative explaining research progress. The narrative should include information on how the research is having disciplinary impact and advancing one or more of the LAS Signature Themes.
- Progress toward development of future extramural research proposals, as well as a time-line for submission of proposals enabled by the SGSS funding.

Questions.

Any questions should be directed to Associate Dean Bill Gutowski, gutowski@iastate.edu, 294-4851. In addition, Dr. Gutowski will be available to discuss this opportunity and encourages individuals and groups to contact him with ideas, questions, etc., by telephone or email, or to schedule an appointment.
Seed Grants for Social Science

Budget and Budget Justification Table

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<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Budget Amount</th>
<th>Justification/Explanation*</th>
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<td>Salaries/Stipends</td>
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*Cells will expand as you write