**Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant (MIRG)**

**2022 Request for Proposals**

**I. Program Description**

The MIRG program is part of Texas State University’s strategy to strengthen and enhance research and scholarly activity in the quest to become a tier-one research institution. Building a research portfolio responsive to the grand challenges of our society is a critical component of this strategy. These challenges are complex and multifaceted. As such, their solutions require multiple perspectives.

The 2022 MIRG program will support multidisciplinary research projects that are responsive to an external sponsor’s existing research funding opportunity and align with one of the [university’s six Big Ideas](https://www.ua.txstate.edu/big-ideas.html): Training with AR/VR, Translational Health, Materials with Intelligence, Harnessing Big Data, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, or Human Expression. Competitive proposals will leverage the past work and track record of team members to accelerate a line of research and show clear plans to apply for external funding within six months of completing the MIRG project.

**II.** **Proposal Deadlines**

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the [InfoReady internal submission portal](https://mirg-txstate.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1829483) no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

Earliest start date for awarded projects is May 16, 2022.

**III. Eligibility**

The proposed project must involve at least two faculty members representing an interdisciplinary effort, with at least two different colleges, schools, departments, or disciplines represented within a single project. Teams must have a history of joint research, or investigators within the team must have strong individual research portfolios that complement the work of other team members. This can be evidenced by prior grant submissions, awards, or publications.

Each investigator must contribute to the project concept and be clearly committed to ongoing involvement in the project. Tenure-track faculty are particularly encouraged to participate.

Each team member must have submitted all reports and other required materials for any prior internal grant awards on time. A faculty member with a current Research Enhancement Program (REP) or MIRG grant may apply as a PI or team member only if the team composition is different and the project goals and scope of work are significantly different from those of current MIRG or REP awards.

The team will designate one member as Principal Investigator (PI). The PI will often be a team member who has taken a leadership role in conceiving the project and is expected to have an ongoing leadership role and/or particular ongoing commitment to the program. The PI will receive all correspondence, manage the budget, and be responsible for reporting.

**IV. Award Conditions**

The 2022 competition will fund three to five projects ranging from $15,000 to $30,000 each. The actual budget must match the specific needs of the research project. Generally, awardees will be expected to complete the project within 12 months from the start date. To allow time for student recruitment and other preparatory work, such as preparation and approval of protocols or other factors related to the work, the project start date may be delayed for up to six months. See instructions below regarding the project timeline.

MIRG awards may not be used to replace or supplement current funding nor to support work within the scope of an active or recently completed research grant. Funds may not be used for facility remodeling or alteration, faculty salaries, or tuition. Grant funds must be used to further project goals as described in the proposal.

**V. Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions**

Proposals must be submitted electronically as MS Word or PDF attachment via the [InfoReady internal submission portal](https://mirg-txstate.infoready4.com/) and include the following:

1. **Cover Page**
   1. **Proposal Title**

Provide a descriptive project title.

* 1. **Abstract**

Provide an abstract (250 words or fewer) suitable for a sophisticated lay audience. The abstract should describe the project’s broad significance, proposed activities, and intended results.

* 1. **List of Collaborators**

Provide a list of the names, e-mail contact information, title, department, and college for all co-investigators, and senior personnel. If there are any external partners (including international partners), list their names, titles, organization, and e-mail contact information.

* 1. **Total Budget Request**

Enter the total MIRG funds between $15,000 and $30,000 being requested.

1. **Narrative** (MS Word or PDF Attachment, up to 10 pages, double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. Times font)
2. Background, context, opportunity, and long-term goals
   * + Describe the opportunity.
     + Describe how the project aligns with one of the university’s six Big Ideas.
     + Describe the long-term goals and potential of the research program, beyond the initial period of MIRG support.
     + Describe how the program could overcome existing barriers, open up new possibilities, lead to innovation in practice, or otherwise merit attention and support.
     + Describe the project in the context of the backgrounds, capabilities, and research interests of faculty members involved.
     + Highlight any unique combination of backgrounds, prior experience, and capabilities being brought to bear on the project. This section should enable the reader to fully appreciate how the team could distinguish itself.
   1. Project plan
      * Against the background provided in the previous section, describe the work you plan to undertake and its expected outcomes. Make it clear to reviewers that you have devised a well-crafted plan that makes good use of talent, experience, and existing resources. After reading this section, reviewers should appreciate how expected outcomes would address the critical barriers you identified in the previous section.
   2. Plans for continuation
      * Identify expected sources of future federal support. For each, include:
        + The federal agency and any recurring or special program to which you plan to apply, and any known submission deadlines.
        + A description of how the project will be responsive to the funding source’s priorities and/or the specific program’s requirements.
        + A description of how funding through this source would advance the project in agreement with your long-term plans. Continuation plans may include intent to apply for one or more large multi-investigator grants and/or a combination of single- or multi-investigator grants that, collectively, will enable the group to continue its work.
3. **Other Required Documents**
   1. **References Cited**

Include appropriate citations from primary literature in your field to support assertions made in the proposal. It is recommended to cite references by first author/year (e.g. Smith, 2014) rather than number (e.g. 10, 19, and 24).

* 1. **Timeline**

Provide a timeline for completing the proposed work in a simple, readable form, such as a short paragraph or simple diagram. The earliest start date is May 16, 2022. The start date may be delayed for up to six months as necessary for reasons such as student recruitment, seasonal factors in conducting fieldwork, or preparation of regulatory protocols. Unless justified by the nature of the work involved, or other unforeseen circustances, work should generally be completed within 12 months. Requests for project extension will be considered with justification on a case-by-case basis.

* 1. **Budget and Justification**

The proposed budget, not including cost sharing, may be between $15,000 and $30,000 and must be appropriate for the proposed work. If matching funds will be used or in-kind resources dedicated to the project, specify those, including amounts and sources. Funding of renovation, faculty salaries, or tuition is not permitted.Although there is no prescribed format, the **budget should list and justify major budget categories (ie. Graduate Student Salaries, UG Student Salaries, Supplies, Travel, Equipments, Consultants, etc.).**

* 1. **Short-form Biographical Sketches (2-3 pages)**

Provide biographical sketches for each faculty member involved in the project. You may use the form prescribed by any federal agency, or you may list educational preparation, research activities, relevant publications, presentations, etc.

* 1. **Current and Pending Support**

Provide a list of current and pending support for all PIs and Co-PIs involved in the project: internal and external grants received or pending review, including title, award amount, funding period, and funding agency. For each, indicate either “no relationship” or succinctly describe the relationship between the work supported by the grant and the proposed project.

**VI. Review Process**

**Reviewers will be reading and evaluating proposals within and across subject areas. Proposals should therefore describe the project and its importance in a manner that can be readily appreciated by non-specialists.**

Reviewers will give funding recommendations to the Chief Research Officer, and final selections for funding will be made in accordance with reviewer recommendations and the final budget allocated to the MIRG program.

**MIRG Selection Criteria**

Reviewers will evaluate each proposal according to the following criteria. While reviewers may judge some criteria to be more critical than others for a given project, these criteria will form the entire basis for evaluation. The following will be provided, verbatim, in instructions to reviewers:

1. **Opportunity, originality, and potential impact**
   * Do the applicants describe an opportunity to accelerate a sustained, multi-investigator research program?
   * Do they identify a field of study or application of rising importance?
   * Do they clearly align with one of the university’s six Big Ideas: Training with AR/VR,

Translational Health, Materials with Intelligence, Harnessing Big Data, Innovation &

Entrepreneurship, or Human Expression?

* + Do they identify distinguishing characteristics of their approach or their combination of talents, experience, capabilities, and perspectives?
  + Could the novelty of their approach, the broad importance of the problems being addressed, and the constitution of the team confer a distinct advantage over time?

1. **Quality of the research plan**
   * Do the applicants present a well-conceived plan for use of MIRG funding?
   * Have they identified critical questions about the feasibility or promise of their approach, or about the long-term importance and viability of their program, and focused their plan on addressing those questions?
   * Have the applicants proposed a sound research plan that makes good use of their talents and existing physical and programmatic resources?
   * Is the budget appropriate for the scope of the plan?
   * Is the proposed timeline appropriate?
2. **Continuation plan**
   * Do the applicants describe a sound plan to pursue funding for continuation of the program?
   * Have the applicants identified potential funding sources and cited prerequisites for success with those sources?
   * Does their vision for the project serve the missions and priorities of those sources?
   * Do they describe a funding strategy considering potential paths, such as qualification for major center grants and/or coordinated use of multiple smaller grants?
   * If expected outcomes are achieved, are the applicants likely to be competitive in the near term?

Each criterion will be scored according to the following rating scale.

**Rating Scale: 1 to 3 = High Impact, 4 to 6 = Moderate Impact, 7 to 9 = Low Impact**

**VII. General Requirements**

**Required reports.** Awardees will be required to submit a report to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs within 60 days of project completion.

**Research integrity.** Research must be conducted in accordance with university policies, including those pertaining to research involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, and hazardous materials.

**Need More Information?**

Please submit questions by e-mail to [research@txstate.edu](mailto:research@txstate.edu).