

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Internal Research Awards** (INTRA) program is part of the UTSA Vice President for Research's coordinated efforts to promote research and scholarship of the highest quality. This program offers experience in identifying and submitting applications to potential funding sources, provides preliminary data to support applications for extramural funding, and enhances scholarly and creative activities. Proposals to this program are expected and encouraged for a broad range of research and creative activities.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Contain clearly stated goals and objectives.
- Show evidence of a solid theoretical and methodological approach as appropriate within the respective discipline.
- Has potential for publications, exhibits, performances, or external grant proposals as appropriate within the respective discipline.
- Represent growth to the PI's research portfolio.

ELIGIBILITY

Awards will be granted on a competitive basis. The competition is open only to full-time, tenure-track and tenured faculty in the following colleges:

- College of Architecture, Construction and Planning
- College of Business
- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Liberal and Fine Arts
- College of Public Policy

Only one award will be made per research project; thus, two faculty members collaborating on a project are eligible to apply for one joint project, and are not eligible to apply for two individual grants for the same project.

Faculty who were awarded FY17 (September 1, 2016- August 31, 2017) INTRA funding are ineligible for consideration for one year following the period of their award. Only faculty that have successfully completed past **INTRA** projects and filed satisfactory final reports within their respective Dean's office will be eligible for future INTRA grants. If applicants have any outstanding reports due under other institutional seed grant programs, they will be ineligible to receive any future seed grant awards until they have met their previous obligations.

FUNDING LIMITS

Total maximum amount to be requested is \$5,000. It is anticipated that 20 awards may be funded every year, subject to available resources. Awards granted per college will be relative to the number of total applications received.

Applications from tenure-track faculty members will be evaluated separately from those submitted by tenured professors; however, they will be evaluated based on the same criteria.

GRANT PERIOD - September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

There is one INTRA submission cycle for FY 18 with a deadline **at the close of business** (5:00 P.M. CST) on March 1, 2017. An applicant may submit only a single grant proposal (new or revised), however, an applicant may be a PI on one application and co-PI on another. Awarded funds will be available after September 1, 2017. **Proposals must be submitted using CAYUSE.**

Contact your respective Research Service Center (RSC) for assistance with completing and submitting the INTRA application using CAYUSE.

Research Service Center Contact Information: <http://research.utsa.edu/osp/contacts.php>

All grant expenditures must conform to state and university regulations and approvals. Projects are subject to the usual IRB, IACUC, export control, conflict of interest, and campus safety regulations and approvals. The researcher is expected to have thoroughly investigated all regulatory issues of the intended research and to have discussed these in the proposal.

If human subjects or animal research is involved, protocols to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be approved prior to funds being released.

- To complete IRB protocols - <http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/human-subjects/>
- To complete IACUC protocols - http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/institutional-animal-care-and-use-program_new/

All required proposal elements are needed at the time of submission. **The application must include the following**, in a text-searchable Adobe Acrobat pdf:

1. Proposal Cover Page (Use Attachment A)
2. Project Description: 5 page maximum
3. Key References: 1 page maximum
4. Budget Template- (Use [FY17 UTSA Budget Template](#) under Pre-Award Forms)
5. Budget Justification: 2 page maximum
6. Biographical Sketch: 2 page maximum for each PI/co-investigator
7. Letter(s) of Support from Department Chair(s)
8. Grant Agreement for each PI/co-investigator (see Attachment B)

(In addition to the elements outlined above, each Dean may add additional criteria as appropriate for their College.)

If any information items requested above are not included at the time of submission, the proposal will not be reviewed.

1. PROPOSAL COVER PAGE – (USE ATTACHMENT A)

The Proposal Cover Page must include a clear, well-written executive summary that summarizes the essential content of the proposal including the objectives, benefits, and significance of the proposed research effort.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION - 5 page maximum

The project description must include, in this order:

- Project Title;
- Conceptual background of the proposed study including a description of relevant work, and theoretical justification for the research;
- Address how this project is a new direction or a different perspective from the PI's existing research efforts and the potential impact on the researcher, the discipline and/or society of this new direction;
- Detailed methodological approach to be used in conducting the research;
- Long-term effect on applicant's research program. Describe how this project will affect the applicant's research program over the long term;
- Narrative should clearly state expected results;
- Disposition of results. Indicate the journal or other publication outlet in which the research will be submitted. For pilot projects, indicate the projected source of funds for further work;
- If this is a re-submission of a proposal that was not funded in a previous round of seed grants (INTRA or GREAT), please describe the progress that has been made on the project since the initial submission, summarizing the major changes that have been made in the application.

The project description must be concise, limited to five typed, double-spaced pages with a 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. If additional information is important to submit, an appendix may be included but there is no obligation for reviewers to read it. A violation of this format will result in your proposal not being reviewed.

NOTE: It is important that you consult the [Office of Commercialization and Innovation](#) before disclosing details of any research that may be patentable. Any confidential information in this proposal must be clearly identified by marking "Confidential" at the top and bottom of each page where the confidential information appears.

3. KEY REFERENCES - 1 page maximum

4. BUDGET TEMPLATE

INTRA Awards will be up to \$5,000 for a grant performance period of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Roll over to the next fiscal year and project extensions are not allowed. Funding that is not spent or encumbered by August 1, 2018 will automatically revert back to VPR, excluding salary and wages which can continue through August.

Budgets must be submitted solely on the UTSA approved budget template (FY17 UTSA Budget Template) found at <http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/forms-policies-guidelines/>.

Contact your respective Research Service Center (RSC) for assistance with completing the budget template.

5. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

A budget justification (no more than two pages) must be submitted providing details for all proposed expenditures. The budget justification must convey an integrated understanding of the types of resources (labor, materials, other) necessary to complete the proposed research project.

Budget Considerations

Grant funds **can** be used for the following:

- Salaries and/or wages for faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students. Fringe benefits are paid centrally- *exclude* fringe benefits on the budget template worksheet.
- Supplies but must be justified as needed for project success.
- Expenses for field work, data collection, archival research, training, educational purposes and/or presentations on research, creative or scholarly activities directly related to the proposed project.
- Consultant fees.
- Contracts and sub-awards for activities outside of UTSA but must be clearly and convincingly described as necessary for successful execution of the proposed project.
- Travel to conferences or other conference support if directly related to the proposed work.
- Travel for data collection or other purposes when justified as essential to the project.

Grant funds **cannot** be used for the following:

- Office equipment, including computers or laptops.
- International travel.
- Student travel.
- Stipends, scholarships and/or tuition.
- Indirect costs (F&A) costs.
- Payment of salaries to non-UTSA personnel.

The PI may transfer up to 25% of the award into different categories of spending without written permission from the VPR Director of Research Financial Administration, as long as the category is in the original budget approved by the Seed Grant Review Committee.

The Research Committee expects each research proposal to list, specifically, the support to be provided or solicited from other sources; for example, lab or studio time, equipment, computer resources, and research assistantships made available through the department, as well as grant support solicited or obtained from external sources. All equipment purchased with funds allocated under this program is university property and will be released to the University for assignment/reassignment at the end of the grant period.

6. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Complete a biographical sketch for every PI and co-investigator in the proposal. Do not exceed two pages per sketch. Each PI may use their preferred format (NSF or NIH). Content for each biographical sketch should include the following:

- A. Earned professional or educational degrees received, professional experience and appointments, and a list of research activities and publications.
- B. Date, sources and amount of all grants, awards, contracts or other research funds solicited and/or received in the past five (5) years.

7. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Each application must include a letter of support from the PI's department chair addressed to the Vice President for Research endorsing the proposed project. The letter should explain how the proposed project will contribute to the faculty member's professional development; contribute to the discipline; and advance department, college, and university research and creative activity goals.

PEER REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a Research Committee established annually by each College and led by the respective Associate Dean for Research. Committee members will be from a variety of academic backgrounds. As such, *proposals should be clearly written in a way that the goals, rationale and methods of the proposed work can be understood by all reviewers. Avoid field specific terminology as much as possible.*

The Research Committee will review proposals and make recommendations to the VPR office. Funding decisions will be based primarily on the Research Committees' recommendations and the relative number of proposals received by each college; final decisions will rest with the VPR Office.

Applicants will be informed of the Committee's recommendations on or about June 1, 2017. As noted above, funding will be available after September 1, 2017.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Clarity, specificity, and quality of the proposal.
2. Suitability for publication, exhibition, performance, or subsequent extramural funding as appropriate within a respective discipline.
3. Contribution to professional development of the investigator(s).
4. Potential of the project for moving the College to Tier One level of accomplishment.

For all applications considered by the Committee, the merit of the proposal will be the primary criterion of evaluation. In addition, the Committee's charge is to ensure that there is broad and balanced distribution of quality awards across the departments in the five Colleges.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The PI is responsible for the administration of grant funds. In particular, he/she must be certain that over-expenditures do not occur and that all funds are fully expended according to institutional fiscal year end deadlines. All work must be completed in the 12 month performance period.

FINAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PI(s) awarded funding under this opportunity will be requested to submit their final report to the VPR Office using the UTSA Seed Grant Reporting Form to capture both quantitative and qualitative output. Awardees will be provided final reporting instructions prior to the end of their project. The PI is responsible for submitting a Final Grant Report no later than September 30, 2018. A final report will also be due to the respective College's Associate Dean for Research no later than September 30, 2018. Final report must be filed in the VPR's Office to be considered for subsequent awards.

GREAT PROGRAM TIMELINE

December 1, 2016 – Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) announced
March 1, 2017 – Grant applications due in CAYUSE (by 5:00 P.M. CST)
June 1, 2017 – Award winners announced
September 1, 2017 – Grant performance period begins (i.e., funds available)
August 1, 2018 – All funds must be spent or encumbered
August 31, 2018 – Grant ends
September 30, 2018– Final project report due

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Project Information

Project Name:	
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Name of Principal Investigator(PI):	
Rank:	
Date of Initial Appointment:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
PI College and Department:	

Name of Co-Investigator:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Co-Investigator College and Department:	

Abstract (200 word or less)

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Internal Research Awards

Attachment B:
Grant Agreement

If this research proposal is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

1. Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.

“This project was funded (full or in-part) by the University of Texas at San Antonio, Office of the Vice President for Research.”

2. Submit to the Associate Dean for Research electronic copies of any publications (or pre-publications, drafts etc.) resulting directly or indirectly from the project.
3. Release all permanent equipment (cameras, laboratory equipment, etc.) to the university.
4. Secure prior written approval from the Research Committee if the research to be conducted differs from that described in the proposal that was funded. Requests for such approval should be submitted to the College Associate Dean.
5. Provide all information requested; incomplete proposals will not be reviewed by the committee.
6. Adhere to the assigned **INTRA** PROGRAM timeline:

September 1, 2017 – Grant performance period begins (i.e., funds available)

August 1, 2018 – All funds must be spent or encumbered

August 31, 2018 – Grant ends

September 30, 2018 – Final project report due

7. Respond to all inquiries and communications from the Office of the Vice President for Research related to the **INTRA** funded project.

Principal Investigator

Signature: _____

Project Name: _____

Date: _____