

Limited Submissions Announcement

A limited submission opportunity is available from The W.M. Keck Foundation and has been posted to the [UTSA Limited Submission Opportunities webpage](#).

[The W.M. Keck Foundation Program Overview](#)

The W.M. Keck Foundation was founded with the goal of generating far-reaching benefits for humanity. Following the ideals of our founder, the Foundation supports outstanding **science, engineering and medical research, undergraduate education**; and, in Southern California, arts and culture, education, health and community service projects that will have a significant impact in addressing complex issues and problems.

The Foundation strives to fund endeavors that are distinctive and novel in their approach. It encourages projects that are high-risk with the potential for transformative impact. "High-risk" comprises a number of factors, including questions that push the edge of the field, present unconventional approaches to intractable problems, or challenge the prevailing paradigm.

Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Does not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success

As a reference, below you'll find feedback we received from Keck to consider for future submissions:

- Keck looks to fund basic, fundamental science. Not translational or applied. Keck does not fund drug discovery, therapeutics, etc.
- PIs must justify challenge/aspect that needs funding from Keck (or Foundation sources) vs. Federal agencies. What is the technical challenge that needs to be overcome that Federal sponsors will not fund?
- Do we need this? What data will this generate that is not already known? The research outcomes generated need to provide a giant leap forward for the topic area.

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- If someone else has the same tools can they do this same research? Or what makes the project unique to UTSA or this group of researchers?

Eligibility

The Lead Principal Investigator (PI) must be employed by the eligible institution submitting the proposal.

Application Limit

The university can submit **one** Phase I application to **each** of these areas:

- Research Program – Medical Research
- Research Program – Science and Engineering Research
- Undergraduate Education Program

Award Amount

- Research Program - \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 (typically \$2,000,000 or less)
- Undergraduate Education Program - \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 (typically \$500,000 or less)

Duration of grants ranges from one to five years.

Application Process

See the attached Internal Proposal Instructions for this application. These instructions supersede the standard limited submission application guidelines.

Cost Share Requirement

Cost sharing is not a requirement for this program.

Internal Evaluation Criteria

The attached review matrix will be utilized for internal review/scoring. Pre-proposals should be responsive to these criteria.

Timeline

Internal Notice of Intent Due (Preferred)	Limited Submissions Application Due	Consultation Period	Application Due to Funder
June 13, 2019	June 20, 2019	July 1 - Aug 15, 2019	November 1, 2019

Questions? Please reference the [UTSA Limited Submission website](#) or contact LimitedSubmissions@utsa.edu

[Limited Submission Process Overview](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[Application](#)

These instructions supersede the standard [Limited Submission Guidelines](#).

SUBMISSION NOTE

Three (3) components should be uploaded to the Limited Submissions Application form – (1) a PDF file with Biosketch(es) or CV(s) of all key project personnel, (2) a one-page Concept Paper as outlined below, and (3) a PDF file with responses to the supplemental questions provided below.

Please indicate the Program area to which you are applying (i.e. Medical Research, Science and Engineering, or Undergraduate Education) on your concept paper.

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

- 12 pt., Times New Roman font
- 1” margins all around

CONCEPT PAPER INSTRUCTIONS/OUTLINE

Single-paged concepts for the Research Program and Undergraduate Education Program should include:

1. **Overview** of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies (for Research Program concepts, indicate area of emphasis for project - medical research or science and engineering research);
2. **Description of the methodologies** and key personnel
3. **Brief justification** of the need for Keck support; and
4. **Estimated budget** broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (budgets can be rough approximations at this stage).

Note: If there's room, authors are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution's prominence in the field, etc.). Avoid illustrations in these single-pagers – the researchers will need all the room for text. If a reference is necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, '11). **DO NOT USE** (Jones et al., 2011).

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Please provide 3-5 sentences (i.e. one paragraph) on each of the following points:

1. Why / how does this project fall outside the mission of public funding agencies? In other words, why is this project appropriate for Keck and not these other public sponsors? In addition, if your proposed project has already been submitted to a public funding agency and was rejected, please let us know; and, if available, send a copy of your rejection notice as an attachment to this application.
2. How is this project innovative? Simply stating that it is innovative will not suffice. We need to have some understanding of how what you are proposing is different from past work and what makes it truly novel.
3. What about this project is high risk / high reward? Keck wants to fund “game changing” research, which is one reason they are looking to fund projects that public sponsors are not willing to. That being said, we need to be able to make the case for this point.
4. How is this project truly interdisciplinary? The interdisciplinary nature of projects is very important to Keck and it is not likely that they will fund something that is not clearly interdisciplinary.