The Ohio State University

President's Research Excellence program: Accelerator Grants

The Ohio State University aims to continue to grow its research and innovation enterprise and increase its research eminence among the nation's and the world's research universities by attracting more externally sponsored research funding, enabling curiosity-driven research and discoveries, and addressing large, complex societal challenges.

Towards these goals, the President's Research Excellence (PRE) program, administered by the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK), provides seed support for cross- and interdisciplinary research that will secure extramural funding. Specifically, the PRE program supports (1) small teams formed to pursue high-risk and high-reward research; and/or (2) large cross- and interdisciplinary teams to pursue large-scale, high-impact research that addresses emerging or existing challenges of national and international societal importance, generates long-term, sustained impact, and positions Ohio State as THE leader in this area.

Proposals must make a compelling case for the nature and scope of anticipated scientific, technological or societal impacts that will result from the proposed research. Applicants should also provide plausible and measurable impacts consistent with program goals to increase research expenditures and enhance Ohio State's leadership position. Projects are expected to result in a proposal submitted for external funding by the end of the grant period or the closest deadline for the external program suggested by the proposing team and approved by the review panel. Failure to do so will disqualify the PI and Co-PIs from submitting PRE requests in the future.

Program

The 2023-2024 academic year PRE program includes one call for proposals for Catalyst Grants and two calls for proposals for Accelerator Grants. Up to $2.5 million will be awarded. Additional details on the timing of these calls can be found on the [PRE program webpage](#).

Note: *The level of expected research eminence is the same for both categories; the difference is the breadth and scope of the proposed projects.*

Accelerator Grants

Accelerator Grants seed cross- and interdisciplinary faculty teams to pursue curiosity-driven, high-risk, and high- reward research that will create new knowledge and/or solve real-world problems. Applications from all areas of inquiry are welcome, with particular encouragement for the following:

- Teams seeking to develop demonstration data and/or preliminary results required for submission of a compelling proposal to an external sponsor.

- Existing teams of faculty who have been collaborating on research projects but need additional funds to accelerate their progress towards external proposal submission or need seed funding to address review comments for competitive resubmission to external sponsors.

- Teams proposing discoveries leading to high-impact patents with clear potential to be licensed and disseminated for commercialization, benefiting a larger public.

Eligibility Requirements

The lead PI for this program must be a faculty member, either tenure/tenure track or research, or a clinical-track faculty member who is engaged in research. PI status at Ohio State is required for all lead PIs. Co-PIs can be faculty, research staff or post-docs from intellectually distinct disciplines. Highly collaborative, cross- and interdisciplinary teams formed with attention to the diverse perspectives and approaches required to address the identified challenge, and that include researchers at all career stages, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Proposing teams must include a minimum of three Ohio State researchers from distinctively different interdisciplinary areas.

Researchers may only be named as PI or Co-PI on a single PRE project proposal per Accelerator or Catalyst competition. If any researcher is named as PI or Co-PI on more than one proposal in the same competition (Accelerator or Catalyst), only the first proposal submitted, as indicated by the time and date stamp from the submission site, will be reviewed and any proposal submitted with a duplicate investigator named after that will be disqualified. Any PI or Co-PI named on an active, awarded PRE project (Accelerator or Catalyst) cannot be named as such on another PRE proposal (Accelerator or Catalyst) until the awarded PRE project period ends.

Budget

Accelerator Grants provide up to $50,000 for a 12-month performance period. For the 2023-2024 academic year, there will be two funding rounds.

Allowable spending:

Accelerator Grants may fund the following:

- Research supplies and expenses associated with project deliverables

- Support for students (stipends and tuition/fees)

- Salary and benefits for staff scientist(s) and/or post doc(s)

- Expenses associated with project specific travel to meet with external collaborators or host collaborator meetings on campus

Funds <u>cannot</u> be used to support or supplement faculty salaries or for travel to conventional academic meetings or conferences. External collaborators are welcome, but may not be supported by PRE funding.

Proposal Requirements

Proposing teams must submit a two-page narrative that is organized using the section headers listed below:

- **Title:** a descriptive project title
- **Project Narrative:** a non-technical narrative describing the challenge to be addressed and the high-risk/high-reward research concepts being proposed, including a timeline of proposed activities for which the team is seeking grant funds
- **Significance and Impact:** an explanation of the significance and expected impact of the work on science and/or society, along with the anticipated contribution to Ohio State's goals related to research eminence and external funding
- **Team:** a list of core proposing team members with departmental affiliations and a brief statement of their role(s) on the proposed project
- **External Funding Opportunity:** the name of the external sponsoring agency and specific program to which a proposal will be submitted by the end of the grant period
- **Summary Budget Narrative:** a brief narrative describing the anticipated allocation of requested seed funding. For example, "Project expects to utilize seed funding to support 50% stipends for twp graduate students (include total dollars), 25% compensation for a research scientist (include name and total dollars), support travel of the PI to meet with industry partner (include name and total dollars)." Do not include a budget table or form.
- **Note that** references are optional and, if included, are separate from the required two-page narrative. Proposal narratives should be single-spaced with one-inch margins and a font size no smaller than Arial 10

A final report of activities and budget expenditures, along with a copy of the proposal submitted for external funding are required at the conclusion of the funding period. Awarded teams whose projects include potential intellectual property are encouraged to contact David Mess at mess.11@osu.edu with ERIK's Office of Innovation and Economic Development for support and guidance.

No-cost extensions are not permitted. Unspent grant funds will be returned to the PRE program.

Review and Selection

Accelerator proposals will be reviewed by a panel of faculty experts. Panel members are not eligible to apply for PRE funding during their term of service. The faculty panel will make recommendations for awards to the vice president of Knowledge Enterprise in the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge and will make final selections in consultation with ERIK leadership.

PRE Evaluation Criteria

- Degree to which the proposed project is discovery driven, and offers A) novel, high-impact and high-reward research concepts to a well-defined challenge of regional or national significance (Accelerator Grant) or B) transformative and high-impact research concepts for larger-scale, significant societal challenges (Catalyst Grant).

- Degree to which the proposed project will increase Ohio State's research eminence and prestige and result in extramural funding.

- Degree to which the project includes strong rationale for the proposed activities and offers compelling near- term proposal submission, long-term impacts on science and/or society, and clear return on university-invested dollars consistent with program goals.

- Degree to which planned activities will plausibly achieve the desired outcome(s) in the designated performance time (i.e., 12 months for an accelerator grant and 18 months for a catalyst grant).

- Degree to which there is demonstrated knowledge and expertise of the team members to effectively execute the project. It is expected that all partners are substantively involved in the design and implementation of the proposed work.

- Degree to which Ohio State's unique strengths and expertise are leveraged to position the university for regional, national and international leadership in the project area.

- Degree to which the plan for the external submission is clear, technically sound and attainable within or at the conclusion of the performance period.

For more information or questions, contact us via email at pre@osu.edu.

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