

Fostering Interdisciplinary Research Explorations (FIRE) Grants Guidelines

Deadline: February 16, 2016

Submit an electronic copy including all items in a **single file in PDF** to: FIREgrant@unc.edu
Funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities

FIRE grants are intended to encourage radically interdisciplinary innovation that transcends the boundaries of conventional partnerships, integrating the strengths of varying perspectives and methodologies, and fostering a collaborative and creative research infrastructure at UNC.

FIRE recipients are interdisciplinary research collaborations co-led by UNC faculty which must contain at least one tenured/tenure-track faculty member, and must represent **significantly different disciplines**, departments, divisions, schools, centers, or institutes such as medicine or sciences with social sciences, humanities, or fine arts. While post-docs and graduate students cannot co-lead a team, FIRE grant funds may be used to fund graduate student or post-doctoral research staff but may not be used to fund faculty salary.

Requirements include: 1) *New proposal applications must represent new or recently established collaborations and/or areas of research.* 2) *Proposed projects must engage faculty representing two or more **distinct fields** or methodological approaches.* 3) *Proposed projects should bring together investigators whose individual programs of research are not already formally connected with publications or funding.*

Recipients will be chosen who bridge **highly disparate** disciplinary areas creating **radically interdisciplinary** research teams working on innovative projects that are *unlikely* to find initial funding from other sources. We are seeking unusual partnerships such as: Music and Nursing; Physics and Public Health; Biology and Social Work; Pediatrics, Social Science, and Art, Philosophy and Chemistry, Mathematics and Journalism

Last year's recipients proposed:

- *Writing Diabetes: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration Examining the Significance of Illness Essays for Patients, Clinicians and Researchers* (English & Comparative Literature, Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science, Anthropology and Medicine, Endocrinology)

 - *Children's Development of Verbal and Perceptual Correlates of Human Emotions* (Linguistics and Psychology)
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Proposal Length: Proposals should not exceed two pages with font 10-point or larger. The budget is limited to one page and is not included in two-page proposal limit. Faculty biosketches are limited to four pages and are not included in the two-page proposal limit.

Proposal Guidelines: Please include the following sections in your two page proposal.

1. **Project Overview:** Briefly describe what you are proposing including:
 - How is your project innovative or novel?
 - What are your aims or goals?
 - What methods or plans will you use to complete the project?
2. **Interdisciplinary Research:**
 - How does this project generate or build on an unconventional partnership between disparate disciplines?
 - How the research benefits from the two coming together (how does 1 +1 =3)?
 - How will this contribute to continued, long-term interdisciplinary collaboration or research?
3. **Qualifications of Team:** Provide CVs or biosketches for each faculty team member, each not to exceed four pages. (other research staff CVs and biosketches not needed)
4. **Financial Officer:** Specify one business manager who will administer the grant funds internally, if awarded. Include first and last name, office phone number, department name, and email address.

Brief Budget Overview: In a one paragraph narrative, include the total amount and budget justification for each category: personnel (not faculty salary), equipment, supplies, travel, other.

Direct questions to Denise Lindley, FIRE grant Administrator, Office of Research Development,
Phone: 919-962-7503, E-mail: FIREgrant@unc.edu