**Research Growth Fund - Spring 2019**

**Request for Applications**

Updated - Feb, 12 2019

Draft for feedback and comments. Please send comments to jasmin.patel@slu.edu

Application Deadline: March 28, 2019 at 5pm

Decision Timeframe: Notifications by June 15, 2019

Project Start: Projects may begin as early as July 1, 2019

Grant Period: Up to 24 months

Review Committees: SLU Research Councils and Research Planning Committee

Application Limit: An individual may only submit one application as the lead

applicant/Principal Investigator per cycle. Collaborations on other proposals are allowed

Resubmission: Resubmissions from previous cycles are allowed

Future resubmissions: A lead applicant can only apply to the Research Growth Fund

once per 12 month period. If you apply in Spring 2019, you will not be eligible to apply again in Fall 2019. The Research Growth Fund will have two cycles per year - Spring and Fall.

How to Apply: Applications should be submitted via the Openwater portal. Log in

to myslu.slu.edu and click on the Openwater icon in the ‘Tools’ tab. You can log in using your SLUNet ID. The first time you log in, you will be asked to set up your profile.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Saint Louis University Research Institute is the newest addition to SLU’s research enterprise. It advances university ambitions to grow scholarship and research.

Over 10 years, the institute will set the university on the path to becoming a national and international model in promoting research, teaching, and learning that exemplifies discovery, transformative outcomes and engaged citizenship in a global society – as specified in the university’s strategic plan.

The SLU Research Institute will:

* Achieve and sustain annual research expenditure growth that places SLU among the fastest growing universities in the country
* Establish eminence in strategic research priority areas
* Raise SLU’s profile and reputation as a world-class research university
* Recruit and retain eminent research leaders and invest in their work
* Increase federal, industry, and philanthropic funding for research conducted at SLU

The Research Growth Fund is designed to flexibly help faculty across the university achieve their research and scholarship ambitions and make progress towards the goals of the Research Institute. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposal will contribute to meeting the 5 goals of the Research Institute stated above.

**ELIGIBILITY**

All full-time faculty members (tenure and non-tenure track) appointed in any school, college, or degree-granting center at Saint Louis University are eligible.

**FUNDING**

Funding can be requested for activities that advance research and scholarship growth. Examples include (funding can be requested in one or more category):

**Personnel Support:** Short-term salary support for personnel working with the applicant for the 24 month grant period. Examples of personnel include: Teaching Assistants for faculty to spend time on research, Graduate Assistants, Postdoctoral Scholars, and Research Assistants. For longer-term personnel support,, applicants should include a plan for sustaining the position beyond the 24 month maximum grant period of the Research Growth Fund.

**Faculty Time:** Freeing applicant’s time to pursue research and scholarly activities, including proposal writing. Examples include: course buyout and adjunct faculty hiring.

**Research Infrastructure or Technology:** Purchasing equipment, instrumentation, software, or other technologies that advance research and scholarship. Funding required for technical staff or maintenance contracts for an instrument may be requested for up to the 24 month grant period. Applicants should include a sustainability plan for ongoing maintenance and staffing costs.

**Other:** Examples include, but are not limited to:

* Travel funds for research or scholarship related travel
* Conference registration and travel to present at top conferences in their fields
* Conference hosting
* Publishing funds, subvention funds, funding for subsidies for manuscript reproduction rights
* Training funds to attend intensive workshops designed to develop new skills that will enhance likelihood of faculty receiving external funding.

Funding may be requested for an activity not listed here. This RFP supports research and scholarship across all disciplines and therefore does not include an exhaustive list of the funds required for advancing all forms of scholarship and research. Inquire with the OVPR when in doubt regarding eligibility of an item for funding. Funds may be requested in the following amounts:

* Category 1: $10,000 - $100,000 per year for a maximum of two years (total up to $200,000).
* Category 2: $200,000 to $500,000. Funding can be requested for one year or can be spread over two years. For category 2 proposals, the application is considered preliminary. The review committees reserve the right to request additional information from applicants and to conduct external reviews. Individuals considering applying for Category 2 proposals are encouraged to discuss the idea with a a research council chair (see links in next section) or Jasmin Patel, jasmin.patel@slu.edu.

**The Research Growth Fund is NOT intended to fund specific research projects and the evaluation criteria are not designed for expert disciplinary reviews (e.g. reviewing the methods for a research project).** The University offers other sources of internal funding for such proposals (e.g. President’s Research Fund, Applied Health Research Grants).

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below by one of the [Research Councils](https://www.slu.edu/research/about-slu-research/research-councils-and-committees.php) or the [Research Planning Committee](http://rpc.slu.edu/) (School of Medicine). Applicants are asked to determine which council/committee is best suited to review the application. The Research Councils and Research Planning Committees will make recommendations for funding to the Research Growth Committee.

The university’s [Research Growth Committee](https://www.slu.edu/research/about-slu-research/research-councils-and-committees.php) will provide oversight to ensure standard processes across the review committees and address any questions and concerns of the committees. The chairs of each of the Research Councils and the Research Planning Committee also serve on the Research Growth Committee. The Research Growth Committee will receive the funding recommendations from each Research Council and will develop a portfolio of projects for funding.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Evaluation criteria for each section are included in the application form. Many key criteria align with the goals of the Research Institute as follows:

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| Research Institute Goal | Evaluation Criteria |
| Raise SLU’s profile and reputation as a world-class research university  | *Part 1: Has the applicant demonstrated that they have used internal funding in a manner that advances scholarship in their discipline or enhances their ability to apply for (and receive) external funding?**Part 3: Does the proposal impact the applicant’s field?**Part 3: Does the proposal advance SLU’s Jesuit Mission?**Part 4: Has the applicant demonstrated a record of scholarly productivity?**Part 4: How likely is it that these funds would result in a scholarly product?* |
| Recruit and retain eminent research leaders and invest in their work | *Part 1: Is the applicant an active researcher with an upward research trajectory?**Part 2: Does the applicant have the training/skills/abilities to successfully complete the work described in the proposal?**Part 2: Does the applicant clearly articulate a growing research trajectory that aligns with their career narrative?**Part 3: - Will the proposal have a positive impact on the research environment at Saint Louis University?* |
| Increase federal, industry, and philanthropic funding for research conducted at SLU | *Part 1: Has the applicant demonstrated that they have used internal funding in a manner that advances scholarship in their discipline or enhances their ability to apply for (and receive) external funding?**Part 4: Has the applicant demonstrated a record of applying for external funding?**Part 4: How likely is it that these funds would assist in securing future sources of funding?* |

Other criteria include:

* *Applicant’s rank and tenure in the context of the application (i.e. it is not expected that a junior faculty member would have as many scholarly outputs as a more senior faculty member).*
* *Is the budget appropriate?*
* *Is the timeline reasonable and well justified?*

Applications are particularly encouraged that:

* Are responsive to more than one of the evaluation criteria
* Bring new capabilities or perspectives to the university (i.e., are transformative)
* Clearly demonstrate the applicant’s ability to produce high impact scholarship and/or apply for extramural funding
* Equipment proposals should benefit more than one faculty member or academic unit.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Annual reports and a final report to the Research Growth Committee are required. The aim for the Research Growth Fund is that the benefits of the awards will continue beyond the funding period. To measure longer-term impacts, the Office of the VP for Research will survey all awardees annually and ask them to keep us informed of research outcomes on an ongoing basis.

**OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF RECIPIENTS**

Award winners will be expected to share the results of their projects with the university community when the project becomes sufficiently mature. Any communication mode that is consistent with the winner’s field of scholarship is acceptable. Award winners will permit their scholarship to be highlighted in university publications and recruiting materials when the project reaches an appropriate stage. It is expected that award winners will apply for external funding to support extension of the scholarship when an external application is consistent with the nature of the project.