SLU RESEARCH
Igniting Discovery, Transforming Lives

Research Growth Fund - Spring 2019

Final - March 26, 2019

Application Deadline	April 26, 2019, 5:00pm Central
Decision Timeframe	Notifications by June 15, 2019
Project Start	Projects may begin as early as July 1, 2019
Grant Period	Up to 24 months
Funding Amount:	Category 1: $10,000 - $200,000 over two years. Category 2: >$200,000 - $500,000 over two years.
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	Moving forward, a lead applicant can only apply to the Research Growth Fund once per 12-month period.
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.
Contact	Jasmin Patel - jasmin.patel@slu.edu David Borgmeyer - david.borgmeyer@slu.edu

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 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.

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 for research or scholarship
- Registration and travel to present at top conferences
- 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. The RGF supports research and scholarship across all disciplines. Inquire with the OVPR when in doubt regarding eligibility of an item for funding.

Funding Categories
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 research council chair (see links in next section) or Jasmin Patel, jasmin.patel@slu.edu.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Research Growth Fund is intended to fund the next phase of research development for SLU researchers with demonstrated records of success for their discipline and career stage. The review process is oriented toward this goal. Other University funding (President's Research Fund, Applied Health Research) is more appropriate for discrete research projects which have evaluation criteria designed for expert disciplinary reviews (reviewing the methods for a research project).

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below by one of the Research Councils or the Research Planning Committee (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 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 decide on a portfolio of projects for funding.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

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 (junior faculty are not expected to 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 (are transformative)
- Clearly demonstrate the applicant's ability to produce high impact scholarship and/or apply for extramural funding
- Articulate the role that the Research Growth Fund plays in advancing a demonstrably high impact research agenda
- Equipment proposals should benefit more than one faculty member or academic unit.

The Research Councils will be piloting the use of quantitative and objective metrics in the review process. These criteria will take discipline and faculty experience into account. Metrics will relate to grant productivity and impact (number of proposals submitted, research expenditures, and salary recovery) and scholarly productivity and impact (types of publications or scholarly outputs, number of citation counts, h-index). Data will be pulled from existing sources (Faculty180, eRS, Web of Science).

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.

FAQ

I applied in the last cycle, can I re-submit my application?
Yes.

How often will the Research Growth Fund accept applications?
We anticipate two cycles per year - fall and spring. This is a new program, and we update the Request for Proposals after each cycle based on feedback from applicants and reviewers.

If I apply in this cycle, when will I be eligible to apply again?
Moving forward, applicants can apply as the lead applicant once per 12-month period (or every-other-cycle). Strong proposals that just missed the pay-line will be invited by the research councils to re-submit earlier.

Can I include letters of support?
Letters of support are not required. If you would like to indicate that you have support, you can list committed partners and/or support under Part 1, "Is there anything else you would like reviewers to know?"

Can external collaborators be included? Can funding go to external collaborators?
External collaborators can be included. Funding can go to external collaborators, however a strong justification must be provided as it is preferred that funding be used by SLU faculty.

How much should I budget for a course buyout?
For 9-month faculty, the recommendation for course buyout is 1/9 base salary per (3-credit) hour course. If a different method is used, an explanation should be included in the budget justification.

Are no-cost extensions allowable?
Yes, but only with appropriate justification. Requests for no-cost extensions must be made in writing to the Office of the Vice President for Research.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

How to Apply	**Do not use this form 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. Log in using your SLUNet ID. The first time you log in, you will be asked to set up your profile.
	Please respond to all questions that are applicable. Write "NA" for anything that is not applicable. Items marked * are required.
	Please ensure that the information in Faculty180 and eRS is accurate and up-to-date. This information will be used in the evaluation process. Faculty180 can be accessed via the 'Tools' tab in myslu.slu.edu eRS can be accessed via https://ers.slu.edu/ers/index.aspx

Part 1: Applicant

In Part 1, reviewers will be considering the following:

The applicant's rank and tenure in the context of the application (junior faculty member would not be expected to have as many scholarly outputs as a more senior faculty member).

Is the applicant an active researcher with an advancing research agenda? *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?*	
1a.	Name: * Email Address: * Department: * College: * Faculty Rank: * Name, Department & College of Collaborators: *
1b.	Please attach a CV (up to 5 pages) or an NIH compliant biographical sketch for the applicant and any key collaborators as a single file (i.e., a CV for the applicant and 2 collaborators would be a single document with up to 15 pages). For help creating an NIH compliant biographical sketch, please visit the NIH's form builder here.*
1c.	Career Narrative. Please supply a career narrative, specifically contextualizing this application and anticipated future work.* (300 words)
1d.	Have you *received* internal grant funding from Saint Louis University in the past? * ❏ No ❏ Yes If Yes: Please ensure your Faculty180 profile is accurate. Please provide a description of the products or deliverables that resulted from that work (external grants applied for/received, scholarly works produced, collaborations started).
	Part 2: Application and Budget

In Part 2, reviewers will be considering the following:

Does the applicant clearly articulate a research trajectory that aligns with his/her career narrative?

Does the applicant have the training/skills/abilities to successfully complete the work described in the proposal?

Is the budget appropriate?

Is the timeline reasonable and well justified?

2a.	Which Research Council/Committee should review your application?* (select one) ❏ Scholarship Research Council ❏ Applied Health Research Council ❏ Science and Engineering Research Council ❏ School of Medicine and Research Planning Committee For which category of funds are you applying?* (select one) ❏ 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. Category 2 proposals may also receive external reviews. Is this an equipment proposal? * (select one) ❏ Yes ❏ No
2b.	Application Title: * Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy): * End Date (mm/dd/yyyy): *

2c.	Application Description: Describe the research program that you are developing for which you are requesting research growth funding. * (600 words)
2d.	Please provide a timeline with key milestones and deliverables (outputs, products). *
2e.	How will you measure success/what would a successful use of these funds look like? * (300 words)
2f.	Please upload your budget. * Budget justification* (300 words)
2g.	If this proposal is a resubmission from Cycle 1, please briefly list major changes. (200 words)
2h.	If you are requesting funds for something that requires chair or dean approval, such as course buyout, please upload approval here. An uploaded email is sufficient.
2i.	Is there anything else you would like reviewers to know? (200 words)

Part 3: Impact

In part 3, reviewers will be considering the following:

Does the proposal impact the applicant's field?

Will the proposal have a positive impact on the research environment at Saint Louis University?

Will the use of these funds promote the goals of the Research Institute?

Does the proposal advance SLU's Jesuit Mission?

3a.	What impact will the use of research growth funds have in your field of study and/or on the research environment at Saint Louis University? * (200 words)
3b.	How will the funds advance SLU's Jesuit Mission and the goals of the Research Institute?* (200 words)

Part 4: Return on Investment

In part 4, reviewers will be considering the following:

- Rank and tenure (junior faculty would not be expected to have as many scholarly outputs or as extensive a history of financial recovery as a more senior faculty member).

> ***Eminence Return on Investment:***
> *Has the applicant demonstrated a record of scholarly productivity?*
> *How likely is it that these funds would result in a scholarly product?*
>
> ***Return on Investment from external funding***
> *Has the applicant demonstrated a record of applying for external funding?*
> *How likely is it that these funds would assist in securing future sources of funding?*

4a.	Please list up to five of your most relevant scholarly outputs (including books, book chapters, patents, scholarly presentations, journal articles,

	performances, creative works, digital products). For collaborative grants, you may list up to five per collaborator if relevant. For additional scholarly outputs, please ensure that your Faculty180 information accurate.
4b.	What scholarly works will these funds allow you to pursue that you would not be able to otherwise? Be as specific as possible. (300 words)
4c.	Please provide your five most recent current/pending grants with funder, total funding amount, and dates. For collaborative grants, you may list up to five per collaborator if relevant.
4d.	What external funding opportunities will these funds allow you to pursue that you would not be able to otherwise? Be as specific as possible. (300 words)