

CRSCA Discretionary Fund
Academic Year: 2020-2021
Deadline: Open

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

IMPORTANT: This fund is for projects that are unique opportunities or emergencies. It is imperative that the applicant address this criterion in the proposal.

Ohio University is committed to supporting research, scholarly and creative works and activities. Through the CRSCA Discretionary Fund, the University makes funds available to all undergraduate, graduate and medical students **for unique opportunities and emergencies**.

CRSCA Discretionary funds are limited, and funding should be sought through the competitive awards processes, whenever possible.

SUMMER (MAY-AUG 2021) PRIORITY CALL: GROUP RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Due to COVID, opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research/creative activity have been reduced.

As a ONE-TIME only opportunity, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity is soliciting proposals from faculty members and staff to support group research/creative projects. The main objective is to increase the number of undergraduate students who can have these experiences. Funding cannot be used to support existing programs for planned student participation.

Applicants can request up to \$500/student up to a maximum of \$4,000. Funds can be used to support existing programs to specifically allow more undergraduate students to participate or for new programs. (See examples below.)

We anticipate funding 3-4 proposals on a first-come, first serve basis.

Deadline: Meetings can be scheduled starting April 12. Proposals can be submitted after applicants meet with Roxanne Male'-Brune and are invited to submit a proposal.

PRIORITY CALL ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM GUIDELINES

For proposals to be considered under this priority:

- The research/creative activity must provide significant experiential learning experiences for groups of undergraduate students (N≥4) during May-Aug. 2021.
- The funding must be used to allow additional undergraduate students to engage in research/creative activity.

All applicants who are interested in applying must schedule a meeting with Roxanne Male'-Brune, male-bru@ohio.edu, to discuss their idea prior to submission.

For proposals within this category:

- The Research Division will waive the 1:1 match requirement.
- Proposals must include:
 - A brief description of the project, including the scope and projected outcomes.
 - If this is part of an existing project, the applicant must detail why additional funds are needed to accommodate additional undergraduate students.
 - A detailed rationale about how the project presents an experiential learning opportunity for undergraduates during summer 2021.
 - A proposed budget, with budget breakdown and justification.
 - Applicants can request up to \$500/student up to a maximum of \$4,000.
 - Funds cannot be used to pay students.
 - Funds must be used to support additional students, in an existing or new program.
 - An email from the department chair attesting that the program meets the spirit of this special priority call.

NOTE: All projects will need to be approved through the [Research Restart Process](#) and IACUC and IRB, as needed, prior to release of funds. During the required meeting, applicants can discuss potential any potential questions.

Examples of Projects and Budget Requests:

A group of undergraduate students help a faculty member design a large theatrical set for a student community summer production.

Budget items:

Supplies costs, e.g., paints, brushes, wood, nails, etc.

Travel costs for a van to move the set and for students to travel to the site.

An investigator routinely collects biological survey information but is willing to take on additional students. The faculty member trains undergraduate students how to collect data. The undergraduate students will go into the field on several occasions with a graduate student and assist them with data collection and analysis.

Budget items:

Field supplies, e.g., nets, specimen jars for the additional students

Travel costs to field site for the additional students

Stipend for graduate student to take the additional students into the field.

A research staff member has planned a program evaluation research project in the community. With additional students they can survey more people in an additional county.

Budget items:

Purchase additional copies of proprietary survey.

Stipend for graduate student to coordinate additional students.

Travel costs to site to conduct survey.

REGULAR PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

Undergraduate, graduate and medical students on all Ohio University campuses are eligible to submit proposals in any field of study.

Only those projects that are unique opportunities or emergencies qualify for funding. It is incumbent upon the student to present an argument that funding is needed immediately and that the project cannot be delayed and therefore funding cannot be sought through the competitive awards processes. Because of the limited funding available, an individual may only receive funding once every two years.

Examples:

An investigator needs to collect a few more lizards in the CA desert during the next month before the lizards hibernate for an ongoing experiment.

An applicant is granted a last-minute interview with an individual who is a critical resource and has very limited accessibility.

NOTE: Conducting an experiment on a timeline that does not allow seeking other funding, does not meet the qualification of "emergency."

REVIEW AND EVALUATION/SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity in consultation with the CRSCA Chair.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Prepare a brief (maximum 2-page) summary of the project.

The proposal must include:

- a brief description of the project, including the scope and projected outcomes
- a detailed rationale about how the project presents a unique opportunity or is an emergency and why other standard funding mechanisms (e.g., GSS Travel Fund) could not be sought.

NOTE: By its nature, an opportunity to engage in research or creative activity provides enhanced and novel experiences for a student; however, this is not a sufficient argument for uniqueness. The concept of uniqueness should be contextualized to the novelty of the project itself relative to the applicant's field.

- a proposed budget, with budget breakdown and justification.
- proof of the 1:1 budget match (an email from the unit/individual providing the funds).
- Student PID number, department, status (UG, G or med) and name of faculty mentor

For proposals requesting money for dissemination, the proposal must also include:

- proof of invitation for presentation
- a statement regarding the significance/importance of the presentation venue.

NOTE: We will only fund dissemination of research or creative activity, e.g., conference presentations, exhibits or performances in rare circumstances where the applicants can demonstrate the prestige of the venue and very unique opportunity for the dissemination.

Example: The applicant is going to present their film on the emergence of a new government at the invitation of the United Nations. (Yes, this is a real example.)

BUDGET

CRSCA Discretionary funding is limited to \$500 and requires a 1:1 match from the department/school and/or College and/or Center/Institute and/or faculty mentor.

Funds may be requested for equipment, supplies, travel, and other bona-fide project expenses. Funds may also be requested, in rare circumstances, for dissemination of research results and creative works, including presentation at a conference, exhibit or performance.

Awardees are expected to participate in the next Student Research and Creative Activity Expo.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Email the proposal to the Roxanne Male'-Brune at male-bru@ohio.edu.