



COLLEGE OF
FINE + APPLIED
ARTS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE PROGRAM (FAA-SRIP)

The Strategic Research Initiative Program aims to increase the level of external grant-seeking activities in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Eligible individuals and teams may request funds to conduct research that has a high potential for external funding and identify a clear and compelling path to pursue subsequent larger scale opportunities.

Guidelines and Criteria

- The Strategic Research Initiative will fund a maximum request of \$30,000.
- Successful proposals will demonstrate a high potential to generate external grants that return at least twice the requested amount to the college in the form of indirect cost recovery (i.e., actual budgets of the external proposals should be several times higher).
- Projects where such overhead is uncommon should clearly explain other potential returns to the college (for example, external grants or awards that bring exceptional recognition or prestige).
- A lead member of your project must be a current FAA faculty or staff member with a research component to their appointment.
- Funds must be spent within two years of the award, with semesterly progress reports delivered to the office of the dean.
- Funds can be used for course buyout for an investigator with the support of the home unit but not for summer salary.
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with the office of the dean for advice on forming proposals to this program. Kevin Hamilton, senior associate dean, and Arnab Chakraborty, dean's fellow, are ready to assist to this end.

Applications should be submitted to the FAA Dean's Office via email to faa@illinois.edu. Please attach all materials to the email in pdf format. Paper forms will not be accepted.



STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE APPLICATION FORM

Section 1.

Principal Researcher _____ Date _____

Dept/School _____ Rank _____

Co-Principal Researcher _____

Collaborating Researchers _____

Project Title _____

Section 2. Project Summary (100 words)

Unit Executive Officer Signature _____ Date _____

FOR SECTIONS 3 THROUGH 7, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE DOCUMENT IN PDF FORMAT.

Section 3. Project Description (1-2 pages)

Describe in as specific terms as possible the work you hope to achieve. Educate reviewers on the intellectual and creative stakes of this work and what drives it as a research endeavor. Discuss the broader impact of this work on your field or others. Clearly identify what portion of this work will be completed with SRIP funds and what work the external support would enable you to achieve.

Section 4. External Funding Plan (1-2 pages)

4.1 Describe the opportunities for external support you plan to pursue.

Be specific about the granting source and, where applicable, the specific program or programs you have in mind. Indicate the size and duration of the award(s) you hope to pursue, and where possible, the acceptance rate for the program(s). Are deadlines periodic, or is this a one-time opportunity? Which deadline(s) do you plan to pursue? Is this source also willing to pay overhead to the university? How would you describe the prestige associated with the awards you seek? Provide links to more information for reviewers.

4.2 What have you done so far to learn more about this program and its awards?

List names of people you have consulted within or without the granting agency. Indicate other information sources you have identified to educate you on the nature of the granting program, including past grantees, application guides, sample applications, etc. What do you know about the review process?



STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

4.3 What makes your work a good fit with the granting program you plan to pursue?

If your training and record makes you an obvious fit from the perspective of grant reviewers, explain how. If you expect your background will make you an outlier or newcomer among applicants, what will you do to make your case?

4.4 Collaborators

If you are applying to this initiative as a team or plan to apply to the external opportunity as part of a team, name the individual team members, describe what they contribute to the effort, and describe its likelihood for success.

Section 5. Preparation for External Support (1-2 pages)

5.1 How will the proposed activities strengthen your external application?

What work is necessary to craft a strong request for support? If a proof-of-concept study or product is necessary, describe the effort required and how you will achieve it. If travel, archival research, resource-intensive consultation, or even training is required, articulate how this work is vital to achieving a sound proposal and how you will achieve it. If you are requesting paid assistance or course buyout in service of proposal preparation, articulate how this work lies beyond the capabilities of current staff or of your own efforts as part of an expected research workload. Provide a timeline for realization, including semesterly goals for assessing progress.

5.2 Why is FAA-SRIP support the best fit for your efforts at this stage?

Why does your project need seed funding? Why is FAA-SRIP a better fit than Campus Research Board? Are you applying for other seed funds?

5.3 What are your future plans with regard to this project with or without SRIP funding?

If the project you hope to achieve with external funding is successful, what new opportunities might unfold for further support through other grants, patents, foundation support, business entities, etc.? What next steps will follow if your initial bid for external support is not successful?

5.4 Describe your past experiences with securing financial support from external sources.

If you have been successful or unsuccessful in past external applications, what lessons from those experiences would you bring to this project?

Section 6. Budget and Justification (1 page)

Provide an itemized budget that describes how the requested funds will be used.

Section 7.

Provide a recent 3-5 page cv, and list the names of three individuals unrelated to the proposed project who can serve, if needed, as informed reviewers.