

2023-24 UC Davis Humanities and Social Sciences S.E.E.D. Fund Program Call for Proposals and Application Guidelines

Program Overview

The UC Davis Office of Research is pleased to announce the launch of the UC Davis Humanities and Social Sciences Stimulating Exceptional and Essential Discovery (S.E.E.D.) Funding Program, which aims to provide awards that support research activity historically underfunded and outside of STEM fields.

This call is open to researchers in **all Humanities, Humanistic Social Sciences, Cultural Sciences and Arts disciplines**. Projects may be in any related field, and requests at all scales of funding within the limits of the call will be considered. In order for social sciences applications to be eligible, they must employ predominantly humanistic approaches and qualitative/interpretive methodologies. Social and Behavioral Sciences funded by NIH/NSF are not eligible for this call. Researchers who received funding through the CRAFT 2.0 and the [College of Letters and Science Revitalization Research Program Grants](#) are not eligible to receive funding from this call.

Strong preference will be given to projects that:

- Present a strong rationale and clearly describe deliverables and associated timelines;
- Demonstrate the necessity of this funding mechanism to achieve a significant outcome in the context of their field (e.g., production of a scholarly work, completion of field work, resuming collection of data) which might not otherwise be achieved (e.g., disruption of progress due to the pandemic, necessity of facility access, other means unavailable to support travel);
- Provide an appropriately justified budget necessary and sufficient to support the proposed work; and/or
- Provide a clear sustainability plan, ideally identifying plans to apply for specific follow-on extramural funding, develop new collaborations, and/or describe other impactful outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must have **Principal Investigator (PI) status** at UC Davis, and a track record of research in the Humanities, Humanistic Social Sciences, Cultural Studies and/or Arts disciplines, including, but not limited to: education; American studies; anthropology; archaeology; art and architectural history; classics; economics; ethnic studies; film; gender studies; geography; history; languages and literatures; legal studies; linguistics; musicology; philosophy; political science; psychology (excluding clinical or counseling psychology); religious studies; rhetoric, communication, and media studies; sociology; and theater, dance, and performance studies.
- Faculty and Federation Researchers in all Schools and Colleges are eligible to apply as long as their research falls within the Humanities, Humanistic Social Sciences, Cultural Studies and/or Arts disciplines as described above.
- Research in Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences funded by NSF and NIH are not eligible for this competition.
- Researchers who received funding through the CRAFT 2.0 and the [College of Letters and Science Revitalization Research Program Grants](#) are not eligible to receive funding from this call.
- STEM disciplines are not eligible for this competition.
- Academic Federation members are eligible.
- Funds will only be provided to UC Davis researchers. External collaborators are welcomed but **must** provide confirmation of matching cash or in-kind contributions to the project.
- If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact strategicinitiatives@ucdavis.edu

Award Details

The award range for this call is \$5,000 to \$20,000 per award. Funding may be requested to support temporary personnel costs such as assignment of research staff, postdoctoral fellows or graduate students, purchases of small pieces of equipment, consumables, analytical services, or other project expenses.

- A quarter of course buyout may be appropriate, provided that the Department Chair is supportive and able to meet the curriculum needs of the program.
- **Faculty salaries and student tuition (resident and non-resident) are not eligible expenses.** Temporary salary contributions for postdocs, staff and graduate students are allowed.
- Travel expenses are allowed for research, field work, or access to specialized sites, laboratories, archives, or materials. Travel for conference participation or workshops is allowed but must be properly justified.

Collaborative efforts with extramural partners are welcomed, but no funds will be released to extramural partners. Extramural partners are expected to make in-kind or cash contribution, clearly described within the proposal narrative and budget.

Requested funds should be appropriate to the scope and nature of the research activities. Examples:

- Assistant Professor X is working on a monograph on cultural practices of an ancient society. They request \$5,000 to support their travel to spend two weeks studying manuscript fragments and other artifacts at a renowned international museum. While there, they will meet with experts at University ABC, visit a field site, and take photographs / create digital records.
- Researcher B has been unable to complete the large-scale survey work needed to complete a study which has the potential for significant impact on public policy. They request \$10,000 to support a part-time GSR to administer the survey, carry out data analysis, and work with the researcher to create infographics communicating the results.
- Associate Professor L has contacts in a prominent philanthropic foundation who have encouraged them to write a grant proposal requesting funds to establish a center of excellence in their field. With their Department Chair's approval, they request \$15,000 for course buyout to enable them to spend the quarter focused on preparing an extensive proposal and carrying out engagements with the foundation's donors.
- Professor D's and Associate Professor R's Research Grants in the Arts award concluded during the pandemic. They request \$20,000 to complete their longitudinal research study on the impact of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in arts education on the mental health and wellbeing of children and teens in the ABC School District. Funds will support facilitated workshops and training sessions with educators, postdoctoral time and effort in data collection and analysis, and publication fees for multiple scholarly works.

Important Dates

August 7 th , 2023	Application Portal Opens (applications accepted only via UC Davis InfoReady Review platform)
October 6 th , 2023	Application Deadline (applications accepted only via UC Davis InfoReady Review platform)
October 30 th , 2023	Decision Notifications (notifications via email from UC Davis InfoReady Review)

Application Process

Applications must be submitted to the UC Davis Special Projects InfoReady Review platform, <https://ucdavis.infoready4.com/>, by October 6th, 2023, 11:59 PM.

Applicants should prepare the following materials for direct input/upload to InfoReady:

1. Abstract, not to exceed 150 words.
2. Project Narrative, not to exceed 1200 words.
3. References (not included in page limit).
4. Total amount of funds requested.
5. Budget Description and Narrative. Briefly describe expense categories and justify amounts requested for each.
6. Biosketches or CVs for PI and all co-PIs. Upload as a single PDF document or provide links to up-to-date online profiles.

Review and Selection Process

Proposals will undergo an initial review for any errors in completion or other non-substantive issues. Proposals will then be provided to the Review Committee, who will score the proposals based on the following criteria:

- **Scholarly merit.** A clear and strong scholarly rationale for the work with high likelihood for impact in the applicant's field.
- **Feasibility.** The work is achievable in the proposed timelines and with the requested budget support.
- **Sustainability.** The research products can be 1) used as preliminary data for extramural funding and specific extramural funding opportunities have been identified; or 2) will result in significant growth of collaboration and/or significant impact in the field of research.

Post-award Expectations

- Funds must be expended within 12 months.
- Awardees must demonstrate significant progress towards their stated end goal, including, but not limited to: submitting an application to at least one extramural funding program, preparation or publication of a scholarly work, or completion of milestones towards a research project.
- A progress report must be submitted at the end of the project period.

Contact Information

For questions about this seed funding program, please contact:

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