



L&S Unites Initiative 2023-24 : Preliminary Proposal Call

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The academic strength of the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis lies in its diverse research community. The interplay between the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences helps us advance knowledge and address society's most pressing problems.

To encourage new interdisciplinary collaborations, the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis is launching the L&S Unites Initiative, which will support collaborative research projects from faculty **across** two, preferably three, of the college's historical divisions: Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (HArCS), Social Sciences (SS), and Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS).

L&S Unites will provide two-year awards of up to \$150,000 to harness the strengths across the college, cultivate multi-disciplinary collaborations, and create the infrastructure to take advantage of upcoming opportunities. The goal is to create long-term impact and visibility for the college by addressing current social, political, economic, and/or environmental grand challenges; exploring novel and innovative ideas; and/or entering into emerging research areas or other creative multidisciplinary possibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

Teams of Academic Senate Faculty within the College of Letters and Science, whose members have a record of active research programs. These collaborative teams of three or more members must include faculty from at least two, preferably three, of the college's historical divisions*.

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The Faculty Member identified as lead administrative PI of the collaborative team is required to submit a preliminary proposal by **11:59 PM on Monday, November 20, 2023** through **InfoReady** at the following link:

<https://ucdavis.infoready4.com/#homePage>

The College's Research Support Committee (RSC), which is comprised of three faculty members from each division, will evaluate these preliminary proposals through a peer review, scoring, and ranking based on the criteria and requirements outlined in this Call. Proposal review assignments to the RSC members will be made to ensure a fair and balanced review and to address any conflicts of interest.

The teams of faculty members with chosen interdisciplinary projects will be notified in December of their preliminary proposal approval and invitation to submit a full proposal. The full proposals will be due in early March 2024. Further instructions on the content and deadlines of the Full Proposal will be provided to the collaborative teams chosen to move forward.

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL CONTENT

Preliminary proposals are limited to a total of **three (3)** pages for the items listed below, single spaced with standard 1" margins and font no less than 11 point. Please label each section clearly and prepare one single PDF document. Applicants should prepare their proposals in language accessible to a general research audience.

- Proposal Title
- Identification of Faculty team members, including a brief description of their area of expertise and expected role in the collaboration (0.5 page)
- Specific priority or priorities that the collaborative project will address (0.5 page)
- Project summary addressing the proposed scope of the collaboration and activities, rationale, and expected actionable outcome(s) and impact (1 page).
- Brief description of collaborative plan, including but not limited to plan for engaging relevant communities and other end-users and approach to leveraging existing resources or infrastructure (0.5 page)
- Brief description for the use of funding over the two year award period (0.5 page). Possible budget items include but are not limited to conference costs, visitor costs, travel expenses, materials costs, student support, and course buy-outs.

REVIEW AND SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Multidisciplinary research team – Does the team enhance the depth and breadth of connections between the historical divisions? Is the collective expertise of the team suitable for the proposed project? Does the collaboration enhance the reach and impact of the project beyond what can be done by individuals? Are the team members well-integrated to leverage complimentary resources and expertise?
2. Priorities and Specific Goals – Does the collaborative project address some critical challenge, advance the state of the art, or expand into novel research areas? Does this project have clear goals and a pathway to reach them? Is there a strong collaborative plan with clear outcomes?
3. Broader Impact – Does the collaborative project have the potential to create long-term impact and visibility for the college? Does the collaborative team articulate what difference the proposed project will make?
4. Budget – Is the anticipated use of the funding appropriate? Does the proposed funding use clearly help to meet the goals of the collaborative project?

QUESTIONS?

Contact ls_research@ucdavis.edu for all questions regarding the program.

For InfoReady technical issues only, contact the Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@ucdavis.edu.

*For a list of the departments within each historical division, see [here](#).