



# Accelerator Grant Program

Fall, 2016

# Lehigh research investment programs

| Program     | Budget max | Requires collaboration | Goals  |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|--|
| FRG         | \$ 6,000   |                        | Conduct / completion of projects; expanded scope and impact; new opportunities   |
| FIG         | \$ 25,000  |                        | Enable initiation of new projects and programs; take existing programs in new directions   |
| CORE        | \$ 60,000  | ✓ (min 2)              | Establish and grow productive multi-faculty research programs  |
| Accelerator | \$ 100,000 | ✓ (min 3)              | Building on established strengths and collaborations, accelerate growth in areas of potential national & international prominence. |

# Accelerator Grant Program

- Requires identification of a **significant opportunity**: a line of research of rising importance in which Lehigh can establish a leadership position
- Intended to enable a **strong team** to quickly pursue the opportunity
- Provides **significant flexibility** in use of funds, over a two-year period
- Requires at least one tenured member of the faculty on the team; PI must be a tenured member of the faculty

# Proposal narrative

1. The opportunity
2. The team, resources and approach
3. Goals and use of funds

# 1. The Opportunity

- Identify a **research area of clear and rising importance**.
- Identify **who will value the work**, and who will naturally be motivated and able to support it.
- Explain how your **team is positioned to lead** in this area.

## 2. The Team, Resources and Approach

Show that your **team is in a great position to pursue the opportunity**, including

- the particular capabilities of the team members, and your ability to work together productively
- your approach to the work
- critical resources – physical resources, existing funded projects, relationships, etc. – you will bring to bear

### 3. Goals and use of funds

- Accelerator grants provide **latitude in allocation of funds** over the two-year award period.
- You should have **clear initial goals, and means for making decisions** about future directions.

### 3. Goals and use of funds

- Describe your **initial goals and first steps**
- Describe **how you will determine allocation of resources** over time
- Aggressive pursuit of external support is expected
  - Identify sources, programs and strategies for competing successfully
  - Long-term goals should include a path to major multi-investigator programs

# Budget

Concise, tabular budget with planned allocations by category

# Selection Criteria

- Have the applicants identified a compelling opportunity?
- Have the applicants shown that they have a competitive advantage in this area?
- Do the applicants present a well-conceived plan for building their program?

**Read the full Selection Criteria in the Guidelines!  
They will be provided verbatim to reviewers, and  
serve as the sole basis for their reviews.**

# Tips for success

- Read the guidelines
  - If anything is unclear, ask!
- Follow the prescribed format carefully
- Write clear prose
- Remember that reviewers are reading across fields. Limit highly specialized material to what is necessary, and keep it concise.

# Ways to fail

- Write a “big FIG”, describing a single project that happens to have a large budget.
- Propose a project that’s not a truly substantive collaboration and get some colleagues to sign on saying they’ll help.
- Describe a compelling problem or research area, then fail to describe what, specifically, your team can do.
- Write a dense, highly technical proposal as you might for your individual disciplinary community. At minimum, you are taking a big chance.

# Dates

- Notice of intent to submit – Friday, **October 14**
  - Descriptive title
  - Brief abstract
  - Investigators
- Full proposal – Friday, **October 28, 5:00 PM**