

PRESIDENT S RESEARCH FUND (PRF) SERC APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline: February 2025 5:00 P.M. CST

To be submitted via OpenWater

Questions regarding these guidelines may be directed to Christine Luebbert, Office of the Vice President for Research, at (314) 397-1111 Email: christine.luebbert@slu.edu

The President's Research Fund (PRF) supports promising projects that have strong potential to attract external funding. These funds have been made available since 2009 to support research and scholarly activity. PRF awards are aimed at supporting the collection of data or activities that the awardee will use as the basis for extramural grant or contract applications. The PRF funds can be used for seed funding for a project, bridge funding, or development of a collaboration or area of research.

Applications must be received by February 2021 at 5:00 P.M. CST, via the OpenWater portal. Log in to myslu.slu.edu and click on the OpenWater icon in the My Apps with a log current SLU email address ([i.e., first.last@slu.edu](mailto:first.last@slu.edu)) and your password. The first time you log in you will be asked to set up your profile.

Eligibility

Eligibility is based on the disciplinary content of the project rather than the appointment of the scholar or researcher(s). Research projects in all disciplines represented by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) will be considered for funding. PIs must also meet the following criteria:

- " Full-time faculty members
- " Collaborative projects refer to faculty representation from two or more colleges, schools, and/or units.
- " One application per PI is allowed for this opportunity. Also apply to other SLU internal annual project-based research awards (i.e., Beaumont Health Research Grants). However, only one award may be accepted in any annual cycle.
- " Be in good standing with their reporting of internal awards to be eligible to submit a new proposal. Submitters should ensure that they have no outstanding or incomplete reports on any existing or previous internal funding prior to submission.
- " Submitters should not re

extensions (NCEs) will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances, with request such extensions being reviewed by OVPR Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) Council. NCE requests must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the end of the performance

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1. LAY ABSTRACT 350 word limit. Written for a general audience.

2. RESUBMISSIONS ONLY (page limit) Revised applications must include a page one description of how weaknesses noted in previous review cycles have been addressed.

3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL 3-page limit. Please use subheadings to delineate sections.

- Specific Aims
- Research Plan
- Significance and Impact of Research
- For collaborative projects, include the role of each collaborator

4. REFERENCE CITATIONS LIST No page limit.

5. EXTERNAL FUNDING PLAN 500 word limit.

Detail the plans for external funding and how the requested funding will enhance the likelihood of external funding.

6. BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION 500 word limit.

Include a detailed, itemized budget. Provide a clear narrative description of how funds in each category will be used.

7. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- Biosketches Provide a current NIH or NSF formatted biosketch.
- Current Research Funding include a detailed description of your current and pending funding including amounts, dates, and outcomes. Please provide a clear narrative for how project fits into your overall research agenda.

8. RECOMMENDED REVIEWERS (Mandatory)

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES
Research Expenses

Awards are based on a competitive review. Reviewers consider the merits of the specific activity proposed, relative ranking among other applications, and availability of funds. Proposals must demonstrate exceptional merit and value for the field of study, the individual, the department, college or school, and the research mission of the university

Upon determination of compliance with guidelines, applications will undergo peer review. Each application will be reviewed by one subject matter expert (ideally one of the reviewers suggested by the applicants), and Science and Engineering Research Council proposals will be given an overall impact score ranging from 1 (exceptional) to 9 (poor), based on the following criteria.

1. Significance Does the future project that follows from the proposed pilot project address

INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE

Projects including the use of human subjects, animals, hazardous materials, etc., must have the appropriate committee approval(s), e.g., Institutional Review Board (IRB), Animal Care Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee, etc. prior to the start of the project.

In the event that a PRF award is made and required approvals are not received prior to the start date, the award may be delayed until approval is received.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS

The award will be placed in a designated fund in the administrative PI's name within the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). PIs are required to oversee and approve all expenditures according to the approved budget. Any remaining funds at the end of the performance period will be retained by the SERC for allocation for future projects.

At the end of one year of performance (On 2022), PIs must submit a report to the research council and OVPR detailing progress and research products related to the received funding. In addition, recipients are required to complete brief annual reports to the research council and that document any external funding, publications, or presentations directly related to the support received from this award for three (3) years following the project end date. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may impact consideration for future internal funding opportunities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. If I am PI/COI on an application, can I submit more than one application as a PI/COI? No. You may submit only one application as a PI per submission period.
2. I am a collaborator on another PRF application. May I also submit an application as PI? Yes, but it must be for a completely different project, i.e., with different aims, goals, and objectives.
3. I am looking for funding for a student's dissertation research. Is the PRF an appropriate source? No. The PRF is intended to stimulate faculty research in innovative areas that are difficult to fund but will lead to external funding.