



Objective

The goal of this program is to support graduate and undergraduate student education at the University of Washington by providing scholars the freedom to explore novel, high-risk/high-reward research topics while seeding new collaborations in research and education that raise the profile of CEI in ways that significantly increase the prospects for future extramural support.

Scope & Eligibility

Proposals are invited from teams of PIs to support ambitious, forward-looking research and educational plans with the specific goal of seeding a future collaborative extramural grant applications (ERC, STC, MRSEC, MURI, NRT, NSF CBET, etc.) that have a strong component in the core CEI research areas of solar energy, energy storage, and grid systems integration/smartgrid science and technology. Single PI grants will not be considered without prior consultation and approval. Previously successful proposals have fallen largely into two categories: (i) teams of multiple senior PIs who are leveraging this grant to build a team to apply to a specific collaborative federal call; (ii) small teams of junior faculty who use the funds to branch into new collaborative research areas of relevance to CEI which they otherwise would not have the opportunity to pursue.

Budget

Budgets should be appropriate to the scope of the project, but would typically be expected to fall in the \$20,000-\$100,000 range, though proposals requesting the maximum are less likely to succeed. Summer salary and teaching buyout time are permitted if justified by commitments of the PI above and beyond the routine direction of novel research (and approved by the home department in the case of teaching buyout), but will not be routinely supported.

Graduate student funding comes with state tuition waivers included, so any request for postdoctoral or staff funding should be accompanied by strong justification.

Proposal Requirements

PIs should complete the online application available at www.cei.washington.edu/exploration and upload a single PDF proposal that includes the following:

- (i) cover page
- (ii) project description (max one page)
- (iii) budget justification
- (iv) current and pending support for the PIs
- (v) CVs of the PIs

» See page two for detailed proposal requirements.

Deadline

Proposals will be considered on an ongoing basis, but those received by September 1, 2016 will receive priority consideration.

Evaluation & Decision

Decisions will be made on an ongoing basis. Evaluation criteria will emphasize: (i) likelihood the results will lead to new extramural funding at UW, (ii) relevance to the CEI mission areas.

Apply Now

All proposals must be submitted online. Those submitted by September 1, 2016 will receive priority consideration.





Proposal Requirements

PIs should complete the online application at www.cei.washington.edu/exploration and upload a single PDF proposal with 1" margins in 12 point Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or Calibri font.

Proposals should consist of:

(i) cover page (one page)

The cover page must include: (i) project title; (ii) total budget request, (iii) PI names and contact information

(ii) project description (one page) and references (one page)

The main project description should be no longer than one page of figures and text, plus one additional page of references. The description must answer the following questions explicitly:

(a) How will this project help catalyze new collaborative external funding at the UW? (applicants should identify upcoming program solicitations this research will enable a team to be more competitive for, as well as a timetable for applying)?

(b) How does this funding go beyond the co-PIs' current individual funding to create a stronger team effort and benefit UW beyond the co-PIs' groups?

(iii) budget justification (one page)

Provide a justification of the expenses requested in the application form

(iv) current & pending support

A list of current and pending support for the PIs

(v) CVs (two pages each)

The CVs of the PIs must be included and should not exceed two pages each.

Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted online. Those submitted by September 1, 2016 will receive priority consideration.

www.cei.washington.edu/exploration

