

2020-2021

Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) Breakout Session

OFFICE OF RESEARCH



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS



Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS)

- ▶ The proposed research must include fundamental (basic) research contributions rather than simply the application of existing knowledge.
- ▶ The RCS is a stimulus program directed towards junior researchers who are at the **threshold of becoming nationally competitive.**

- ▶ Eligible Disciplines for 2020-2021
 - ▶ Biological Sciences I and II
 - ▶ Computer and Information Sciences
 - ▶ Earth/Environmental Sciences
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Health and Medical Sciences
 - ▶ Engineering B (Industrial, Materials, Mechanical, etc.)



PI Eligibility

- ▶ RCS is directed toward junior researchers who are at the **threshold of becoming competitive** and who, with assistance from RCS will be able to:
 - ▶ implement their plans to overcome whatever barriers they have identified which have stood in their way
 - ▶ develop a strong potential for enhancing their competitive status within a limited time span.
- ▶ It is unlikely that researchers who are already established and federally funded would be highly competitive.
- ▶ Junior researchers at the threshold of becoming competitive will be given priority over senior researchers who are changing research fields.



RCS One Year

- ▶ The goal of the RCS one-year is to stimulate and support faculty on a limited basis in their exploration of novel science and engineering research leading to near-term federal support.
- ▶ The RCS One-Year Research Component provides short- term pilot awards for both tenured and tenure-track faculty.
 - ▶ **Tenure-track faculty** can use the seed funding made available by this program to sharpen their research focus and develop cutting-edge techniques.
 - ▶ **Tenured faculty** can use the award to demonstrate an innovative or novel concept and become more competitive by investigating new areas that require a shift in their current research direction.



RCS Grant Cycle

September 30, 2020, 4:30 pm CT	Mandatory RCS Notice of Intent due through LOGAN
October 15, 2020, 4:30 pm CT	Last day that potential applicants may ask questions about the RFP
November 9, 2020, 4:30 pm CT	Deadline for Receipt of RCS Proposals through LOGAN
November 2020 – March 2021	Proposal transmitted to and reviewed by out-of-state experts
April 2021	Reports and recommendations of out-of-state experts forwarded to institutions of higher education
April 2021	Final action by the board
May – June 2021	Contracts negotiated and executed
July 2021	Dissemination of debriefing information



Limits

- ▶ An eligible faculty member may serve as a principal or co-principal investigator on a maximum of one RCS grant at any one time.
- ▶ Individuals who received RCS or RCS One-Year awards in last year's competition (i.e., RCS and RCS One-Year contracts with a start date of 6/1/2020) are not eligible for this round of funding
- ▶ An applicant may submit a maximum of one research proposal in the RCS with the applicant listed as "Principal or Co-Principal Investigator"
 - ▶ An applicant may be listed as "Other Investigator" on additional RCS proposals.



Notice of Intent

- ▶ Due September 30, 2020 by 4:30 pm in LOGAN
- ▶ The NOI form includes a cover page requesting the title, investigator, amount requested, and other general information, and a narrative project summary that provides an overview of the project.
 - ▶ There are no restrictions on the length of the project summary, though it is recommended that the document not exceed one page.
- ▶ To create or sign-into your LOGAN account click [here](#).
- ▶ If necessary, the title of the proposed research and the amount of funds requested in the RCS notice of intent may be changed slightly when the full RCS proposal is submitted. **The discipline under which the proposal is submitted, however, must be the same as that under which the RCS notice of intent was submitted. The substance and subject matter of the proposal may not change.**



RCS Proposal

- ▶ Submitted electronically, via LOGAN, by 4:30 p.m. CT on Monday, November 9, 2020
- ▶ Cover Page (form filled out and submitted through LOGAN)
- ▶ Project Summary
 - ▶ Maximum of 250 words entered into LOGAN
- ▶ Goals and Objectives
 - ▶ The final goal to be reached by the end of the grant period, and/or annual goals for any intervening years, must be clearly specified.
 - ▶ This section of the proposal must be no longer than the equivalent of one, single-spaced, typewritten page and uploaded to LOGAN as a separate .pdf document.



RCS Narrative

- ▶ All narrative sections of the proposal must be presented **in a single PDF document** with pages numbered, 1-inch margins at the top, bottom and on each side, and in type no smaller than 12 point.
- ▶ RCS Proposals – 15 page limit; RCS One-Year – 5 page limit
- ▶ Narrative Sections:
 - ▶ Rationale of the Project
 - ▶ Research Plan
 - ▶ Involvement and Qualifications of Investigators, Other Faculty, and Students
 - ▶ Institutional Capabilities and Commitment
 - ▶ Bibliography
 - ▶ Narrative page limits do not include the bibliography. The bibliography shall not exceed 2 pages.
- ▶ Please refer to the RFP for full details on what to include in narrative sections.



Appendices

- ▶ Essential material supplementary to the text of the proposal should be uploaded as a single .pdf document.
- ▶ The appendix must be referenced in the proposal narrative, and may not exceed 15 pages for RCS and 5 pages for RCS One-Year applicants.
- ▶ Appendices may include:
 - ▶ Attachments/Supplemental Information
 - ▶ All general supporting materials (e.g., charts, photos) to which reference is made in the narrative section must be clearly marked and included.
 - ▶ Letters of Support
 - ▶ Although the applicant ultimately must decide whether letters of support are needed, their addition is strongly encouraged in instances in which an agency (other than the applicant's employing institution) or a person (other than the project personnel) will assist or collaborate in the research in some manner.
- ▶ Appendices and Letters of Support are an excellent place to strengthen your proposal.



RCS Budget - Activities

- ▶ RCS – 3 years, up to \$200,000
- ▶ RCS One-Year – 1 year, up to \$20,000
- ▶ RCS Applicants may request funds for expenses including:
 - ▶ Salary support at an annual amount not to exceed 25% academic year salary plus two months' summer support
 - ▶ Graduate or undergraduate assistants, postdoctoral researchers, visiting faculty, etc.
 - ▶ Equipment may be requested only in the context of the particular research initiative proposed and the request must contain, at a minimum, a cash match equal to or greater than 25% of the total cost of the requested equipment



RCS Budget - Administrative

- ▶ Office of Research will not cost share GA Tuition. the routing form should include a source for Ga tuition that is not another grant. Some allowable funding sources may include:
 - ▶ Department tuition waiver
 - ▶ Department investment of F&A account
 - ▶ PI Enhancement account
 - ▶ College investment of F&A account
 - ▶ Endowment
 - ▶ Gift

- ▶ An indirect cost rate of 25% will be permitted only on salaries, wages, and fringe benefit



Disallowed Budget Items

- ▶ Purchase of office furniture
- ▶ Routine office equipment (e.g., standard desktop computers or printers)
- ▶ Construction of facilities
- ▶ Maintenance of equipment, whether existing or purchased through the Support Fund
- ▶ Routine renovation, expansion in size, or upgrading of facilities
- ▶ Payment of faculty from the submitting institution to train other faculty at the same institution, or faculty at other institutions
- ▶ Honoraria for faculty and staff at Louisiana institutions, whether they are involved in or external to the proposal
- ▶ Scholarships or tuition
- ▶ Proposed centers or institutes which require Board of Regents approval prior to their establishment and which have not been previously approved



Budget Narrative

- ▶ A narrative justification must be uploaded which fully explains in terms of project needs and goals every item for which the expenditure of Support Fund money is proposed.
- ▶ An explanation of each item of institutional cost sharing and/or matching support should also be included.
- ▶ If funds for graduate or undergraduate student support are requested, the students' roles in accomplishing objectives of the subprogram must be identified, and the budget must clearly show the amount of time they will be involved and the rate of pay



Additional Documents

- ▶ Biographical Sketch
 - ▶ Biographical sketches for all key personnel and consultants (if appropriate) are limited to two pages and must be provided in the form available through LOGAN
- ▶ Current and Pending Support
 - ▶ Applicants must complete both the “Current and Pending Support” form, and the “History of Support” form, both available in LOGAN. The “History of Support” form must describe, at a minimum, the last five years of support.



BoR and UNO Deadlines

Item Due	Date
Mandatory Notice of Intent finalized in LOGAN by PI and signed by Office of Research before 4:30 pm Central time	September 30, 2020
Grant Writing Services Request Form to Office of Research	October 10, 2020
Routing Form to Office of Research	October 10, 2020
Questions about RFP to BoR	October 15, 2020
Proposal finalized in LOGAN by PI and signed by Office of Research before 4:30 pm Central time	November 9, 2020

Additional Resources

▶ Contacts

- ▶ Budget: Kendy Martinez, kbmarti1@uno.edu, 280-6837
- ▶ Grant Writer, **College of Science**: John Bishop, jbbishop@uno.edu, 280-4744
- ▶ Grant Writer, **All Other Colleges**: Bekah Cossaboom, rmcossab@uno.edu, 280-4752

▶ Examples of funded proposals

- ▶ Ask John, Kendy, Bekah
- ▶ Or request them from the [Board of Regents](#)

▶ [UNO Information on Board of Regents Support Fund](#)

▶ [Board of Regents Webinar on 2020-2021 Programs](#)

▶ [Board of Regents Website](#)

▶ [UNO Budget Development](#)

▶ [UNO Proposal Development](#)



[Access
the RFP
here!](#)

Questions?

Thanks for coming!

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