



Principal Investigator Instructions for Interdisciplinary Origination Award Proposals

Send proposals to rdadmin@byu.edu by **February 17th, 2026**. Use the subject line "Application for IDR Origination Award."

Eligibility Criteria

- Track One: Investigators must be full-time faculty from two of more BYU colleges, and three or more distinct BYU departments or programs.
- Track Two: Investigators must be full-time faculty from one or more BYU colleges, and three or more distinct departments or programs at BYU.
- Budget limited to \$60K per year for up to two years for Track One, and \$20k per year for up to two years for Track Two.
- Eligible departments include: academic departments, the Center for Collaborative Research and Statistical Consulting, the Harold B. Lee Library, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), the Microscopy Lab, the MRI Facility, the Wheatley Institution, the Maxwell Institute, and the Sorensen Center for Ethical and Moral Leadership.

The proposal will consist of the following elements:

1. **Cover Page Template** (1 page). List the names of faculty participating and their departments and colleges (minimum requirements for each track must be met).
2. **Project Narrative** (up to 5 pages). This section is the main body of the proposal and should include the following:
 - a. Introduction that provides background or rationale for the project; identifies the current status of the research; describes the project's long-term goals and short-term objectives.
 - b. Proposed plan which describes the project's expected outcomes; the project methodology; identifies specific research or scholarly activities to which funds will be applied and how these investments will enhance the competitiveness of the project for external funding; provides a schedule and expected milestones; describes the interdisciplinary team and how the IDR Origination Award will enable the team to successfully obtain future external support.
 - c. Expected research outcomes.
3. **Budget and Budget Narrative** (up to 1 page). Teams can propose up to \$60k per year for up to two years for Track One, and \$20k per year for up to two years for Track Two. Funds may be used for allowable costs consistent with university rules for travel, equipment, supplies, contractual services, and core/shared user facility use. Funds also may be used for salary to support the project efforts of graduate and undergraduate



students and/or technical personnel under the supervision of project investigators, where data collection is required as a part of the effort to enhance competitiveness. Funds may NOT be used to replace current funding from another source; for renovation, remodeling, or alteration of research laboratories or core/shared facilities; for institutional release/course buyout, or for faculty salary.

4. **References** (no page limit). List references cited in the project description.
5. **Plans for External Funding** (up to 1 page). List potential external funders and a timeline for submitting proposals. As part of your description, make it clear how your project aligns with external funder priorities/program goals.
6. **Biographical Sketches**. A template for the Biographical Sketches will be sent to your team following receipt of your letter of intent. The template will reflect requirements for funding agencies likely to be relevant to your project.
7. **Current and Pending Support** (no page limit). List all current external and competitive internal funding; your list should include all funding regardless of how it relates to this project).

Proposal Format

Proposals should be submitted as a PDF file. The document should **use Arial 11 point font with 1 inch page margins**. These formatting rules apply for the entire submission, not just the Project Narrative.

****All proposals not meeting the component requirements will be ineligible for review.***

Review Criteria

- Potential to produce significant scientific, cultural, creative, and/or societal impacts
- Clearly articulated problem statement
- Identified measures of success and achievable milestones
- Diverse interdisciplinary research partnerships with clear team member contributions
- Strong potential for *external* funding following the IDR Award

Review Process

1. Research Development will perform a compliance review of proposals.
2. Technical reviews will then be conducted by members of the University Research Council (Research Associate Deans).



- Each proposal will be assigned primary and secondary reviewers from colleges with field-specific expertise, as well as an additional tertiary reviewer who is content-naïve.
 - Each assigned reviewer will score (their) assigned proposals prior to the review panel, using a defined rubric that scores the review criteria. All IDR teams will have access to the rubric during draft construction.
 - To minimize review panel hours: cumulative scores will be used to define proposals that get discussed/not discussed
 - Any proposal on the border of being discussed will be brought up for review if discrepancies between reviewer scores exist.
3. A review panel meeting with the Research Associate Deans will occur in which:
 - Defined time will be given to each assigned reviewer
 - Assigned reviewers will comment on strengths and weaknesses of each discussed proposal and justify their own scoring; other ADRs will peruse proposal copies
 - Each proposal will be discussed; all ADRs score proposal by all review criteria
 - At close of review panel: each ADR will rank-order discussed proposals
 - Average of rank-order scores will be used to assign winning teams for each Track
 4. Funding recommendations will be made to the AAVP-Research, who will award funds.

Reporting Requirements for IDR Award Recipients

1. Selected Awardees will present brief reports at the Research Networking Event (usually held during the Annual University Conference week).
2. Written reports are due on August 1 after each year of funding. The report should describe research results, tangible research outcomes (publications, student mentoring and activities, presentations, etc.) as well as list submitted external proposals based on the project and their status. A report template will be provided to the PI by Research Development.
3. Published papers should list the Simmons Research Foundation as the funder.