



University of California Research Opportunity
Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

May 1, 2014 (*This version supersedes prior draft versions*)

The Multicampus Research Program

The University of California is pleased to announce a new opportunity to fund UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI). MRPIs are multicampus or systemwide research collaborations that go beyond individual PI-driven projects to benefit the UC research enterprise, strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university, launch pioneering research in thematic, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary areas, and benefit California and its people. The competition is open to all fields of research and scholarship. Applicants will have an opportunity to indicate which disciplines or interdisciplinary or thematic areas best describe the proposed collaboration. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed activities meet MRPI program goals to advance outstanding research and cutting edge discoveries, impact the lives of Californians, increase UC's competitiveness, inform public policy, and support innovative graduate student research. The award start date is January 1, 2015.

Funding for this opportunity derives from the UC campus assessment, and all research proposals must come from the UC research community (see "Eligibility" guidelines). This opportunity includes two award types. Applicants may apply for only one of the two award types. Both award types require the collaboration of at least three UC campuses, or at least two campuses and one or more UC-managed national lab. The two award types are: 1) Two-year planning, capacity-building and infrastructure awards ("Planning Awards") open to new multicampus or systemwide collaborations aimed at launching novel, cutting-edge interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research that will enhance UC competitiveness; and 2) Multi-year "Program Awards" (up to a maximum of 4 years) open to both new MRPI collaborations, as well as currently funded MRPIs and established MRUs. Detailed descriptions of the two types appear in the "Award Types" section below.

We anticipate at least \$9.5 million total over two years will be available to fund all MRPI awards in the initial two year period. However, the UC budget for 14-15 is not yet approved, and the total available MRPI funding may change, particularly over the two-year time period. Funding allocation between the two award types will be based on proposal pressure as well as potential to enhance and diversity the systemwide portfolio in areas of key strategic importance. Depending on proposal merit, availability of funding, and portfolio balance, up to one-third of available funding may be allocated to Planning Awards, and approximately two-thirds of available funding for Program Awards.

The first round (2009) MRPI competition was highly competitive, garnering 139 proposals totaling \$346 million in funding requests for project periods of up to 5 years. The Program was able to award 37 collaborative proposals (27%), totaling \$70.7 million (20%) over 5 years (average annual total = \$14.2 million). Since 2009, the University has sustained substantial reductions to its state budget allocation, and re-aligned its budgeting structure, resulting in a substantially lower projected MRPI program budget.

Funding decisions will result from a competitive peer review of proposals in response to this RFP. All proposals must conform to the requirements of the final version of the RFP, and, where they differ, not to

prior draft versions of the RFP. It is the applicant's responsibility to check the MRPI website for any program updates or clarifications prior to submitting the full proposal.

Awards are contingent on availability of funding.

Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities

MRPIs provide stimulus and cohesion for thematic topics important to UC and California and serve as a resource for the UC system. MRPIs can be organized to carry out focused research efforts, to provide competitive grants in important fields of research, or to facilitate high levels of interdisciplinary collaboration and interaction that advance innovative research. Following guidance from a systemwide joint faculty-administration committee (the [Portfolio Review Group](#)), MRPI awards should be directed to research that fulfills the following three principles:

- 1) Research that enhances UC's systemwide research capacity, influence and advantage by providing access to the facilities, resources, and opportunities available across the UC system.
- 2) Research that enhances multicampus collaborations, and fosters multicampus engagement, in order to achieve outcomes not available through (or duplicative of) a single campus and discipline.
- 3) Research that mutually benefits UC and California, its people, environment and economy.

To fulfill these principles, MRPI funding is intended to support:

- areas in which seed-funding could lead to future extramural funding, especially in areas where UC campuses are underfunded relative to other comparable research institutions;
- areas that are underfunded by the government in relation to their perceived importance to the state or the nation; and
- emerging fields of study, innovative or multidisciplinary research that could increase UC's research competitiveness.

The MRPI opportunity is intended to fund unique collaborations not otherwise supported at the system-wide level. Collaborations that receive concurrent funding from other UCOP systemwide programs, sources, or opportunities must disclose that support in their proposals, and it may be considered in the MRPI funding decision. Proposals for which the primary intent is renewal or extension of existing support without a compelling rationale for their continuation are unlikely to receive support. All applicants are required to describe how MRPI support is expected to leverage extramural funding and provide plans for securing extramural support to make the multicampus collaboration self-supporting.

2015 MRPI Award Types

Applicants have an opportunity to apply for one of the two award types in this competition cycle. Both award types require the collaboration of at least three UC campuses, or two campuses and one or more UC-managed national labs. Each proposal must identify a host campus and a lead Principal Investigator, as well as one Collaborating Principal Investigator or site lead at each participating campus or national lab (additional collaborating investigators may be named if they contribute significantly to the research scope and activities). The intent, priorities, and goals of each MRPI award type are described below:

- 1) Two-year planning, capacity-building, and infrastructure awards ("Planning Awards"):
Intent: To create or strengthen *research capacity* in novel or cutting edge fields, for *new* interdisciplinary collaborations, or research collaborations in areas that have not previously received MRPI, ORU or MRU support. This award type provides funding of up to \$150,000 annually for a maximum of two years to launch new collaborations across the UC enterprise to address a gap in critical research areas that would strengthen UC. Awards will enhance the ability of new

multicampus collaborations to successfully launch an initiative in order to successfully compete for extramural and programmatic awards. Successful proposals will demonstrate the impact and benefit of this collaboration for advancing UC’s research mission and enterprise, with clearly articulated goals and metrics for success within the two-year period.

Examples of award activities include (but are not limited to):

- Planning grants for workshops and think tanks to convene new collaborators with cross disciplinary perspectives to target/address the development of a novel research agenda or program;
- Funding to develop new databases, data sets, or other research capacity that can be shared across the UC campuses to enhance novel research or launch new research directions; or
- Funding to recruit, train, and support graduate students and post-docs in new interdisciplinary and multicampus research collaborations that will enhance UC’s competitiveness in recruiting and retaining outstanding graduate students in novel fields.

Proposals for equipment or resources located at only one or two campuses must include a comprehensive description of how the equipment / resources will enhance research capacity and competitiveness across the UC system, and be made accessible throughout UC, and to a minimum of three campuses. Funding for equipment purchases or resources for which access is limited to only one or two campuses, will not be considered.

NOTE: Two-year Planning Awards are non-renewable, and cannot be awarded concurrently with any other MRPI funding. Recipients may apply in future competitions for multi-year Program Awards.

2) Multi-year program awards for 2, 3, or a maximum of 4 years (“Program Awards”):

Intent: To stimulate novel and compelling multicampus or systemwide research. These awards may support new collaborations, or established multicampus endeavors that demonstrate both compelling benefit to the UC research enterprise and compelling justification for ongoing systemwide support. Awards may support activities for between 2 to 4 years, and should advance UC’s research mission and impact through support of novel faculty research, genuine multicampus engagement and collaboration, comprehensive opportunities for graduate student support and training, and benefit to UC and California.

Examples of award activities include (but are not limited to):

- New multicampus and systemwide collaborations that require more than the two years of seed funding available through the Planning Awards (described above);
- Established multicampus collaborations that want to launch new initiatives or expand their collaborations into new areas or with new UC collaborators that require systemwide funding to achieve these new goals; or
- Currently funded MRPI projects that demonstrate a compelling justification for renewal or continued support to enhance the systemwide research mission and benefit to UC and California.

NOTE: MRPI funding is intended to seed UC collaborations and enhance their competitiveness for extramural funding. Therefore proposals to renew program funding without a compelling justification regarding ongoing systemwide benefit in the absence of extramural support are unlikely to receive funding.

NOTE: Multi-year Program Awards cannot be awarded concurrently with any other MRPI funding, and applicants may apply for either Planning or Program funding, but not both.

Eligibility Requirements & Exclusion Criteria

1. Proposals must include the involvement of at least three UC campuses, or a minimum of two UC campuses and one of the UC-managed national laboratories. The proposal will be submitted by an identified host UC campus, through which the award will be administered. The host campus must indicate its willingness of to provide an administrative home for the award. The signature of the Vice Chancellor for Research (or designee) indicates the commitment of appropriate campus space and infrastructure by the host campus. Projects, programs, initiatives, or institutes with other organizational models should indicate their means of logistical support and infrastructure and, where appropriate, document support from relevant campuses.
2. Proposals must identify a Lead Principal Investigator (PI) for the award, and must identify one collaborating PI or site lead for each collaborating campus or lab. The lead and collaborating PIs must have PI status at a UC campus (for guidelines on PI status, contact your campus Office of Research, or refer to Section 1-530 of the [UC Contracts and Grants Manual](#)). Additional collaborating investigators may be identified if they contribute substantively to the research activities identified in the proposal.
3. Established MRUs, ORUs with systemwide activities, and currently funded MRPIs may apply for Program Awards only. New multicampus collaborations may apply for either two-year Planning Awards, or the multi-year Program Awards. Any collaborations, programs, institutes or centers that receive systemwide funding for their activities must fully disclose that funding in their proposal.

Proposal Review Process and Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by interdisciplinary panels through a competitive peer review process. Reviewers will be selected for their subject matter expertise, and the panels will be composed of faculty and researchers drawn from both inside and outside of the University of California system. Review assignments will be made to ensure a fair and balanced review and to address conflicts of interest. There will also be a comprehensive portfolio review spanning all fields to establish the balance of funding across the portfolio.

The review and selection criteria for success in this competition include:

1. Excellence: Highest quality research in compelling and important topics that create or strengthen UC's research capabilities to advance scholarship, student training, and knowledge, particularly in areas of importance to California. Excellence also includes likelihood of impact in the fields or thematic areas identified in the proposal, and feasibility for achieving proposed goals and outcomes in the award period.
2. Competitiveness and Innovation: The proposed activities should enhance UC's competitiveness in attracting faculty, graduate students, awards, prizes, honors, and extramural funding. Proposals should indicate how participants will benefit from complementary strengths among the campuses and labs, or how opportunities will increase through shared resources or administration. Translational and applied research efforts concerned with the ultimate practical application of basic research findings and innovative technologies are encouraged in applicable fields. Innovation may be demonstrated by interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary scholarship at the cutting edge of two or more fields.
3. Strength of the Collaboration and Systemwide Impact and Benefits: Proposals that identify the impact and benefits to the UC system of the proposed approach will receive highest priority in evaluation. Thus, successful proposals will take into account the following:
 - Genuine engagement and interaction of faculty, researchers, and graduate students from three or more campuses or national laboratories;

- Interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaborations that stimulate systemwide creative processes, access to the best available resources (national laboratories, medical centers, museums and collections, natural reserves and more), and/or promote new educational curricula;
- Contributions that help position UC for strategic excellence; and
- Additional benefits to the multicampus approach might be demonstrated through increased efficiency as a result of common facilities or administrative support.

NOTE: An MRPI that proposes to offer competitive grants in an important area of research or to connect campus projects in a multicampus network should indicate how its approach will leverage the impact of research across the system. If allocations to individual recipients are proposed, the proposal must articulate how this use of systemwide funds enhances systemwide research and could not be better achieved through the funding of collaborative or multidisciplinary approaches.

In addition to the criteria outlined above, six additional factors will be considered in evaluating proposals:

1. Involvement of and benefit to graduate students of the proposed collaborative activities;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed budget to achieve proposal aims in the award period;
3. Other sources of support, and plans to secure extramural support, if available, to make the multicampus collaboration self-supporting. *Continued reliance on systemwide support as evidenced by renewal applications for currently funded MRPI grants must justify the need for ongoing funding and identify compelling novel contributions anticipated through funding renewal;*
4. A governance structure that ensures systemwide impact and a balanced opportunity for participation and competition for resources across UC;
5. Sufficient campus commitment and administrative capacity to support the proposed activities;
6. *For Program Awards:* Previous or ongoing collaborations relevant to the proposed activities that demonstrate the potential to extend the reach or impact of the proposed research or activities.

Application Requirements and Scope of Proposals

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent as the first step of the application process. LOIs will be administratively reviewed to confirm eligibility, and used to plan the peer review. Proposals will not be excluded based on LOI content or research area. Depending on the number of LOIs received, MRPI program staff may indicate to applicants the degree of perceived alignment and program fit between the LOI and MRPI program goals described herein. Upon acceptance of the LOI, applicants will be given access to the full proposal materials, including complete submission instructions, in proposalCENTRAL. Program updates and additional information are available at our [website](#). A complete proposal submitted on proposalCENTRAL by the application deadline is required for funding consideration. Late proposals cannot be accepted.

Letters of Intent

All applicants must initially submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via proposalCENTRAL to be considered in the competition. LOI instructions are available [online in pC](#) and attached in Appendix 1 of this document. LOIs must be submitted by **Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 12:00 noon PDT (3:00 PM EDT)**.

The LOI includes the following required information:

1. Lead PI name, title, and departmental and campus affiliation;
2. Host campus (usually it is the campus affiliation of the Lead PI);
3. Identification of the UC campuses/national labs that will have a significant role in the proposed research and the name of the collaborating PI for each participating site;
4. Identification of primary research field(s) (one required) and thematic area(s);

5. Abstract providing a brief description of the proposed scope of research and activities, expected impact on UC research/scholarship, and a brief description of any specialized facilities or resources for each participating site relevant to the proposed activities (2500 characters, or approximately 400 words); *and*
 6. Award type applied for, anticipated number of years of support, and estimated award amount requested. Please note the restrictions on award length based on award type. The preliminary budget estimate is for program informational/planning purposes, and only the budget in the full application will be reviewed.

Scope and Content of the Full Proposals

The proposal narrative is limited to seven (7) single spaced pages (not including abstract, budget justification, and attachments), and must include the following components:

1. Abstract/Project Summary: The abstract should be appropriate for a general scholarly audience. Avoid disciplinary jargon or technical language specific to a single field. (The abstract must fit the character count of the text box, and will not be counted towards the 7 pages).

2. Proposed Research Activities (5 pages): Identify the specific aims, research activities and scholarly contributions of program or initiative, including the innovative and collaborative components that will advance scholarship in emerging fields, multi- or interdisciplinary areas, or areas of strategic importance to UC. The narrative should describe the contribution of the proposed activities to advancing outstanding research at UC, the likelihood of the research to position UC as a leader in the field or thematic area, and how the proposed activities will enhance UC's competitiveness in attracting outstanding faculty and graduate students. As appropriate, describe faculty development and graduate student training opportunities. (No more than 5 pages, including tables and figures).

3. Systemwide Benefits, Engagement, and Accountability (1 page): Describe the mechanisms, and collaborative approaches that will ensure genuine multicampus engagement and/or systemwide benefit and impact of the proposed collaboration. Identify the specific benefits that are expected to be accrued by UC or California and the importance of the research to California. Benefits may include a description of how the collaboration increases efficiency through common resources while stimulating the systemwide creative process and/or promoting new educational curricula. Applicants must include a description of the proposed governance or advisory structure to ensure the research's systemwide impact and success.

4. Timeframe, Milestones and Evaluation Metrics (1 page): Identify the research timeline, benchmarks, and milestones, including a description of the methods that will be used to evaluate and assess effectiveness of the initiative, including specific outcome metrics, and other evaluation methods. *Applicants must justify how the proposed time period and requested budget will accomplish the milestones to make a significant impact in the field.* Include a description of how the program will either end, or transition to non-UCOP funds at the completion of the funding period, as appropriate. NOTE: Planning awards are for a maximum of 2 years, and Program awards may be for 2, 3 or 4 years. All awards will have a start date of January 1, 2015.

5. Itemized Budget Template and Justification: Provide a detailed budget, by project year, completed on the Excel template provided. In addition, a budget justification, not to exceed two pages, is required, to describe the significant project expenditures. The total budget requested in the budget template must match the total budget requested in proposal cover sheet. If these figures do not match, the lower figure will be used to determine the maximum award. The budget may include *direct costs only*. The award start date is January 1, 2015. Proposals that require fewer than 12 months of funding in the first year should pro-rate (reduce) the 2015 budget request accordingly to cover the number of months required.

NOTE: For proposals that include collaboration with the 3 UC-managed national labs, the labs must waive their indirect cost recovery on any funds paid by UCOP from this MRPI funding opportunity. Indirect costs for the labs may be covered by matching funds from non-UC sources, or through cost-sharing by the labs. (This restriction on indirect cost recovery does not apply to [UC Lab Fees Research Program](#) awards, or other systemwide programs or opportunities using other fund sources. Refer to specific funding programs for their indirect cost recovery rules.)

6. **Attachments:** a) Literature cited (2-page limit); b) Curriculum Vitae for principal investigator(s) and other Key Personnel (co-Principal Investigators/site leads, and other collaborators); c) Letter(s) of commitment identifying campus resources (if any), as appropriate to the proposal; d) Disclosure (required) of all current or anticipated concurrent sources of systemwide (UCOP) research funds supporting this collaboration (template provided), and; e) A maximum of one page identifying specific prior accomplishments or outcomes of the collaboration may be included in Program Award proposals (optional).

Timeline, Selection Schedule and Submission Deadlines

June 3, 2014:	LOI submission deadline at 12:00 pm (noon) PDT (3pm EDT as shown in pC).
August 7, 2014:	Proposal submission deadline at 12:00pm (noon) PDT (3pm EDT as shown in pC).
December 2014:	Announce competition results
January 1, 2015:	Award Start Date

Research Program Oversight

Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) is a funding opportunity administered under the auspices of the UC Office of the President. It is one of several funding opportunities offered by [UC Research Initiatives](#) (UCRI) in the [Research Grants Program Office](#) (RGPO). Funded collaborations are required to report annual progress and fiscal expenditures. Funded proposals will be assigned to at least one UCRI staff person who will serve as the primary program contact.

Awards are contingent on availability of funding, and compliance with research and reporting requirements. Future-year funding (beyond the initial payment of selected awards) is contingent on ongoing systemwide funding of the Multicampus Research Program.

For questions on program priorities, please contact:
 Emily McDonald (Emily.McDonald@ucop.edu; 510/987-9146)
 Chris Spitzer (Christopher.Spitzer@ucop.edu; 510/987-0246)
 Kathleen Erwin, Director (Kathleen.Erwin@ucop.edu)

Administrative questions regarding the application process may be directed to: RGPOGrants@ucop.edu

Technical Questions related to use of proposalCENTRAL: Please email pcsupport@altum.com or call 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) Technical support for online submission is available through proposalCENTRAL (Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Please note that from California you must call between 5:00 AM and 2:00 PM).

Updated Program Announcements, FAQs and RFP clarifications (if any), and Applicant Information teleconference information will be posted on the [MRPI website](#). To ensure proposals meet all program requirements, PIs and their collaborators are strongly encouraged to check the website for any program updates prior to full proposal submission: <http://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/programs/multi-campus-research-programs-and-initiatives.html>.

APPENDIX 1: LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS



UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Letter of Intent Submission Instructions for Planning and Program Awards

FY2014-2015

The University of California Office of Research and Graduate Studies is pleased to provide applicant instructions for submission of a Letter of Intent to the university-led [Call for Proposals for UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives \(MRPI\)](#) announced on to May 1, 2014. Submission and approval of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to submit a full proposal to this RFP, however LOIs are non-binding. Once the LOI is approved, applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Letters of Intent must be submitted **by June 3, 2014 before 12:00 noon Pacific Time**. We encourage early submission of LOIs. Please note: LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline.

OVERVIEW OF ONLINE LOI SUBMISSION PROCESS

The LOI must be submitted using the online system, proposalCENTRAL (pC) at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com/>. Applicants may submit LOIs via the online system anytime between May 1, 2014 and June 3, 2014. The LOI submission must be **complete** by the 12:00 noon PT deadline (not merely initiated). Therefore, plan ahead in preparing your submission, and allow a minimum of two hours to receive confirmation of your successful submission by the deadline.

Step 1: 'Applicant PI' Designation

LOIs must identify an Applicant Principal Investigator (Applicant PI) and host campus for administering the award. The Applicant PI must have PI status at a UC campus. The Applicant PI should submit the LOI on behalf of the initiative and is the responsible PI for the full proposal. The Applicant PI is identified in Section 4 of the LOI, as detailed below.

Each collaborating campus must identify a site lead called a co-PI. Additional researchers with a significant role in the initiative should be designated as collaborators or co-investigators. Co-PIs are identified in Section 6 of the LOI, as detailed below. Participation by the national laboratories in the proposed activities is encouraged where it enhances the research objectives, however, Lab investigators may not serve as the Applicant PI, unless they have campus PI status and apply through their UC campus.

Step 2: Applicant Registration with proposalCENTRAL

Applicant PIs must register as users of pC to submit an LOI and complete a proposal <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com/>.

Registered Users: Applicants who have already registered with pC should enter their user name and password under "Applicant Login" and click the **Login** button on the pC homepage.

New users: Applicants who are not registered users of pC should click the **Register** button under "First Time Users" and follow the instructions to become a registered user. Applicants must first select their institution. All University of California campuses have pC profiles under "Regents of the University of California" at the designated campus. Click the **Search Registered Institutions** tab to locate your institution on the pC system. (For example: If you are searching for "University of California, Los Angeles", you can enter 'Los Angeles' or use 'UCLA' as search terms). Please complete all required sections, which are marked with an asterisk.

Step 3: LOI Submission

To submit an LOI, log into pC, select the “Grant Opportunities” tab, and scroll down to the “UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) 2 Year Planning Award” or the “UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) Multi-Year Program Award,” whichever is relevant. On the right, click the **Apply Now** button to begin the LOI submission process and follow the instructions. Requirements for the LOI, or other RFP terms and conditions, can always be obtained by accessing the RFP document, which is available on the [MRPI website](#). The RFP is also available by clicking on “Program Guidelines” on pC near the bottom of the left sidebar.

For technical help with proposalCENTRAL, please email pcsupport@altum.com or call 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) or +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International). ProposalCENTRAL customer support is available Monday – Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm (EST).

STEP BY STEP: KEY SECTIONS FOR LOI SUBMISSION

Additional details on each section of the online LOI submission form are provided below. Please note: the numbered sections listed below directly correspond to the numbered LOI sections in the left hand column of the LOI page on the pC web site. To view the LOI page, please select **Apply Now**, or, if you have already started the LOI submission process and would like to make changes or complete your submission, you may select **Edit** under the “Manage Proposals” tab.

Section 1: Title Page

This section must be completed first. Upon completion of Section 1, the remaining sections listed below (2-7) may be completed in any order, and do not need to be completed in one session; however, please be sure to save your work after each entry.

Title: Please enter the project title here. Do not exceed 60 characters. No special characters allowed.

Estimated Budget: Enter the estimated total amount requested. Indicate the proposed budget in whole dollar amount. Do not use cents.

Is this a Renewal? This question is only applicable to the Multi-Year Program Award and does not appear for the 2-Year Planning Award. Provide a response to this question by selecting Yes/No. Select “Yes” if this collaboration was supported by the last MRPI call in the 2009 cycle.

Project Period: Enter the anticipated project period (1 or 2 years for the Planning Award; 2, 3, or 4 years for the Program Award).

Current Collaboration Status: - All LOIs must include responses to the following.

- i. Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “Does this collaboration/program currently receive any other sources of UCOP (systemwide) research funds?” If you select “Yes,” please provide the 1) Source(s) of Funding, 2) Total Annual Amount, and 3) End Dates, if any.
- ii. Provide a response (Yes/No) to the question “At this time, do you anticipate that during the proposed award period your collaboration will receive any other sources of UCOP (systemwide) research funds?” If you select “Yes,” please provide the 1) Source(s) of Funding, 2) Total Annual Amount, and 3) Number of Years.

Section 2: Download Templates and Instructions

This section includes downloadable LOI submission instructions.

Section 3: Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

This section allows applicants to designate others, for example a Collaborating Investigator, to access their profile or proposal(s) to assist with proposal writing or submission.

Section 4: Applicant PI

This section requires the identification of the Applicant PI.

Section 5: Applicant Institution

See information about how to select your Applicant Institution under the section “Step 2: Applicant Registration with pC” above.

Section 6: Site Lead - Each Collaborating Campus/Institution. Provide contact information for one co-PI for each participating campus and/or lab. A participating campus is defined as one which will receive funds as part of the research activities if awarded.

Section 7: Letter of Intent

In the text box provided, briefly describe the project/proposed collaboration in non-scientific terms that can be understood by a general audience. This abstract should summarize the primary goals, activities, scholarly contributions and expected outcomes and/or benefits of the proposed collaboration. This summary description is limited to no more than 2,500 characters, including spaces, or approximately 400 words/one typed page. Information must be entered as text only (scientific notations, special characters, fonts, and other rich-text formatting cannot be saved or displayed. The text will automatically wrap: Carriage returns should be used for the start of a new paragraph but should NOT be used at the end of each line.) The summary is non-confidential, and may be published or circulated by the program.

Primary Research Field: Please select a primary research field from the list below that most closely describes your field of research. A selection is required. The categories are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Policy Studies
- International and Area Studies
- Biological, Life and Health Sciences
- Environmental and Earth Sciences
- Physical and Computational Sciences

Secondary Research Field: If applicable, please select a secondary research field from the list below that most closely describes your field of research. A selection is optional. The categories are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Policy Studies
- International and Area Studies
- Biological, Life and Health Sciences
- Environmental and Earth Sciences
- Physical and Computational Sciences

Thematic Area: Please select up to 2 thematic areas that describe your proposal, if any of the following are applicable. This selection will only be used for administrative planning, and is not a comprehensive list of eligible topics. Please note a response is optional.

- 01 Agriculture / Biotechnology
- 02 California Studies
- 03 Climate Studies / Climate Change
- 04 Cultural Studies / Ethnic Studies
- 05 Data Systems
- 06 Development Studies / Regional Economies
- 07 Disparities Research
- 08 Education
- 09 Energy
- 10 Engineering / Technology
- 11 Food /Nutrition / Food Systems
- 12 Health Systems / Public Health
- 13 Immigration / Migration Studies
- 14 Interdisciplinary Studies
- 15 Literature / Language

- 16 Media Studies / Communication
- 17 Nanotechnology /Materials Research
- 18 Neuroscience / Cognition
- 19 Physical Sciences
- 20 Policy Studies / Government
- 21 Sustainability
- 22 Urban and Regional Planning / Built Environment / Transit
- 23 Visual / Digital / Performing Arts
- 24 Women's Studies /Gender and Sexuality
- 25 Other / Not Listed

Section 8: Reviewer Recommendations

The University of California Office of Research & Graduate Studies will constitute the panels, assign reviewers, and make final determinations regarding panel composition. You may suggest qualified individuals for our consideration who could provide reviews of your proposal without conflicts of interest. Please list the name, address, email address and telephone number of reviewers. In addition, you may identify scientific peers who you do not want to review your proposal.

All requests to include or exclude reviewers will remain confidential. To add a reviewer for inclusion/exclusion, click on "Add New Entry." A pop-up box will appear for you to enter the reviewer's contact information. Under the pull-down menu, select "include" or "exclude" reviewer from review. If you choose to "exclude" a reviewer, you MUST type in an explanation in the text area

Section 9: Validate LOI

Section 9 enables applicants to verify that the LOI is ready for submission. The system will notify applicants of any outstanding information required to complete the submission process.

Section 10: Submission of LOI

Following the submission of an LOI to pC, applicants will receive an e-mail message confirming receipt of the application. If you do not receive this confirmation within 2 hours, please contact pC tech support.

Should you have any questions regarding the content or eligibility of proposals for the RFP, please contact:

- UC Research Initiatives at RFPCComments@ucop.edu regarding program content and eligibility
- Research Grants Program Office at RGPOGrants@ucop.edu or by phone at 510-987-9386 regarding application and pre/post-award procedures.

For the most up-to-date application and review cycle information refer to the following website: <http://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/programs/multi-campus-research-programs-and-initiatives.html>

Technical questions regarding proposalCentral submission should be directed to their customer support at 800-875-2562 or pcsupport@altum.com. Please note their hours are 8:30am – 5pm ET/ 5:30am – 2pm PT.