

# Faculty Innovation Grants 2017

The Faculty Innovation Center and Project 2021 invite proposals from UT Austin faculty to develop or scale promising innovations in undergraduate education. Typical grants will be \$5,000-10,000.

Any project with substantial potential to enhance teaching and learning at the University will be considered. For example, larger grants might be awarded to adapt existing digital courseware to create new blended or online learning experiences, or to scale projects that have already experienced some success. Smaller grants might be used to develop new ideas into prototypes or pilots.

## FOCUS AREAS

Proposals should focus on one of these two general areas:

1. **ONLINE OR HYBRID/BLENDED LEARNING**

Includes a range of technology applications to deliver content to students in innovative ways, connect students to their instructor and to each other both inside and outside of class, promote active learning (e.g. interactive simulations), and provide timely feedback to learners.

2. **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Experiential learning involves experiencing direct, firsthand encounters with real world phenomena, whether through hands-on research (in or outside of class), internships, service learning, or other experiences.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals are evaluated by a review committee that will score proposals on the following factors.

1. **STRONG RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT**

A rationale describes the problem to be solved or improvement to be made and, preferably, is grounded in relevant research. High-scoring proposals make a clear case for the value of the work.

2. **QUALITY OF DESIGN – GOALS, SCOPE, PLAN, BUDGET**

Proposals should identify goals, describe a plan that will meet them, and include measurements of success. High-scoring proposals tailor the scope to address stated goals, explain and justify specific activities, and tie budget to those activities.

3. **ENABLES ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE OCCUR**

These grants are intended to catalyze innovation. High-scoring proposals offer evidence that the innovation is new and not part of ongoing processes in the unit.

## HOW TO APPLY

Any UT Austin faculty, individually or in teams, may submit a proposal. Proposals should follow the template available on the Faculty Innovation Center website [link] and should include a signed letter from the applicant's chair or unit director.

**Applicants should submit proposals via email to [facultyinnovate@utexas.edu](mailto:facultyinnovate@utexas.edu).** Questions about grants and the application process may also be directed to this address.

Applications must be submitted for review by **June 1**. Awards will be announced one month later, on **July 1**.

Awardees will be asked to submit a brief final report to share their work with the campus community.

## FINANCIAL STIPULATIONS

Funds will be transferred to grantees' departments. Grant funds may be used for faculty salary (summer or supplement), research assistants, materials or supplies, or other necessary costs including publications, meeting costs, or conference participation consistent with relevant departmental, college, or University policy, Regents' rules, and Texas state law. Budgets for salaries should build in fringe benefits, which varies by department. Applicants should work with their department's financial administrator to develop an accurate estimate. Awards are subject to a 3.25% administrative fee.

The number of grants awarded will depend on available resources and the design and quality of proposals received.