Research Funding Announcement
June 10, 2021

Visit the Princeton Research Funding Gateway for more funding opportunities.

Dear Deans, Chairs, Directors, Faculty, and Administrators of Divisions I, II, III & IV:

I am writing to alert you to the following open submission opportunities. Please share this information with any Princeton colleagues who may be interested.

The Corporate Engagement and Foundations Relations team is available to assist faculty with proposal development and submission.

The Office of the Dean for Research is available to assist faculty with collaborative federal proposals for centers and institutes, training grants, and equipment grants, as well as initiatives that advance strategic priorities such as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Alerts and Notices

Chemical company BASF is inviting PhD students and postdocs to apply for its 2021 North American Research Forum, to be held virtually from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, 2021 from 12:00–5:30 pm each day. The Research Forum offers an opportunity for young scientists to gain insight into the chemical industry and learn about how to apply their physical, biosciences, or related data science postgraduate academic experience in R&D, technology, marketing or production. Interested participants with the requisite qualifications need to apply no later than Sunday, June 20.

The NIH is holding several Bridge2AI Program virtual Team Building Activities in June 2021 for potential applicants: three different Data Generation Project Module Microlabs (June 14, 16, and 18, 2:00–4:00 pm each day), and the Grand Challenge
Team Building Expo (June 23, 11:00 am–5:00 pm). Registration is required. A Program Town Hall was held on June 9; check the Bridge2AI website for a possible recording. A funding opportunity for this Program is listed below.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**National Science Foundation #NSF 21-575 – Office of Polar Programs Postdoctoral Research Fellowships – $160K* – Proposal Due: 6/18/21**

*Provides fellowships for postdocs new to polar research or who propose applying techniques new to polar science*

Funds opportunities for early-career scientists, including social scientists, to accomplish one or more of the following goals: expand their work across traditional disciplinary lines, develop new partnerships connecting the polar regions and/or non-polar research communities, and provide entry to researchers who have traditionally had limited access to polar research resources, sites and facilities. The program encourages the integration of new investigators who have not previously worked in polar regions and/or innovative techniques that have not previously been applied to polar science into polar research, and provides experiences that will prepare Fellows for leadership positions in the scientific community. The proposal must be submitted by the Fellowship candidate, who will be named as the project’s PI (preferably at an institution new to the applicant; however, proposals to be hosted by the Fellow’s graduate/current institution will be considered). *$160K over two years includes salary and research and professional development expenses.* View

**National Institutes of Health – Blueprint MedTech Pilot Award to Accelerate Early-Stage Neurotechnologies – Up to $100K – Pre-Proposals Due: 6/21/21*  

*Pilot program supports early translation of medical device interventions for diseases of the nervous system* 

Seeks groundbreaking collaborative research projects in the early stages of translation to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the central and peripheral nervous systems. Applications must present potentially transformative solutions to unmet needs with an ultimate goal of improving healthcare outcomes. If successful, projects should be viable candidates for commercial development. In addition to monetary support, faculty awardees will receive ongoing, specialized support from mentors experienced in commercializing neurotech devices. *Required pre-proposals are due June 21; invited full proposals are due by July 23, 2021.* View

**Department of Defense #WHS-AD-FOA-21-01 – Minerva Research Initiative – $450K to $5M* – White Paper Due: 6/23/21 by 3:00 pm**

*Supports research seeking fundamental understanding of the social and cultural forces shaping U.S. strategic interests globally*

The Minerva Research Initiative emphasizes questions of strategic importance to U.S. national security policy. It seeks to increase the DoD’s intellectual capital in the social sciences and improve its ability to address future challenges and build bridges to the social science community. Minerva brings together universities and other research institutions around the world, and supports multidisciplinary and cross-institutional projects in specific areas of social science. *Anticipated funding range is $150K–
$1M per year over 3–5 years. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate Point of Contact two or more weeks prior to white paper submission to discuss their ideas. White Papers (due June 23 3:00 pm) are also strongly encouraged; full proposals are due by September 29, 2021 3:00 pm. View

Greenwall Foundation – Making a Difference in Real-World Bioethics Dilemmas – Amount TBD – Letter of Intent Due: 6/28/21*

Funds innovative bioethics research that will have a real-world, practical impact on decision-making, policy, or practice

Supports research to help resolve an important emerging or unanswered bioethics problem in clinical, biomedical, or public health decision-making, policy, or practice. Projects must expand bioethics knowledge and help make bioethics integral to decisions in health care, policy, and research. Collaborations should involve a bioethics scholar and persons with on-the-ground experience with the bioethics dilemma, and engage with relevant lay or community stakeholders as well. *Required Letter of Intent is due no later than June 28; invited full proposals will be due by September 2, 2021. View

Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) – E&T Innovation Awards – No funds awarded – Entries Due: 6/29/21

Recognizes new innovations in science, engineering, and technology with the potential to significantly improve society

The IET is a global network that connects engineers and technicians from all over the world. Its E&T Innovation Awards recognize and celebrate the very best new innovations across the breadth of science, engineering and technology that have the potential to make dramatic improvements to modern society. Awards will be made in 17 categories, and give global recognition to those who are creating innovative and creative solutions that deliver a return in sentiment, sales, engagement, behavior, or actions. There is an entry fee for this international competition. View

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) – Growth Accelerator Fund Competition and SBIR Catalyst Prize – Funding varies by Track – Application Due: 7/2/21 by 4:00 pm*

Supports impactful and inclusive approaches that encourage entrepreneurs involved in cutting-edge R&D

The SBA seeks proposals from the nation’s innovation-focused entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs) that outline programs to speed the launch, growth, and scale of deep-tech small businesses across the country. To encourage local and regional support, preference will be given to contestants who secure matching funding from federal or nonfederal sources; however, matching funds are not required. *Applicants must submit a 12-slide deck and a 90-second video, addressing the relevant elements of one of the following tracks, no later than 4:00 pm on July 2, 2021. View

Track 1 - The Growth Accelerator Fund Competition—Prizes of $50K for efforts to provide focused assistance to STEM/R&D entrepreneurs, including support for company formation as well as awareness and education of SBIR/STTR programs. Contestants must focus their proposed efforts on one of the following groups: women entrepreneurs, minority entrepreneurs, or other target entrepreneurs identified by applicants (i.e., rural, veterans, individuals with disabilities, etc.).
Track 2 - SBIR Catalyst—Prizes of $150K to scale collaborative partnerships, strengthen ties between stakeholders (including public, private, non-profit, and academic partners) in support of SBIR/STTR applicants and awardees. SBIR Catalyst winners will help fulfill the SBA's goal of addressing current gaps in access to the innovation economy for communities of color, women entrepreneurs, and rural communities.

Department of Energy & National Renewable Energy Lab – American-Made Geothermal Lithium Extraction Prize – Amount TBD* – Phase I Submission Due: 7/2/21

*Funds development of direct lithium extraction (DLE) from geothermal brines to create a safe, domestic lithium supply*

The goal of the Prize is to improve the cost and efficiency of lithium extraction from geothermal brine through chemical, material or process engineering by partnering novel geothermal and non-geothermal expertise with experienced DLE industry experts to overcome challenges of geothermal lithium extraction. The Prize consists of three phases that will fast-track efforts to identify, develop, and test disruptive solutions. Each stage will include a contest period when participants work to rapidly advance their solutions. *At the end of Phase 1: Idea & Concept, $600K will be distributed equally among up to 15 semifinalists, who will then be invited to participate in Phase 2: Design & Invent. View*

Facebook Research – Agent-based User Interaction Simulation to Find and Fix Integrity and Privacy Issues – Up to $100K – Proposal Due: 7/7/21

*Funds research into the scientific and technical challenges presented by Web Enabled Simulation*

Facebook is interested in research that tackles the scientific and technical challenges the company faces in developing and deploying Web Enabled Simulation and that could also lead to longer and deeper collaboration between partners from the academic research community and the Facebook project team. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, Testing Validation and Verification; Scalability; and Modeling User Behaviors and Counter-Factual Interventions. View

Facebook Research – Engineering Approaches to Responsible Neural Interface Design – Up to $150K – Proposal Due: 7/14/21

*Supports development of noninvasive neurotechnologies for human control of augmented reality/virtual reality systems*

Facebook Reality Labs (FRL) has been exploring neural and neuromotor data as potential inputs for controlling augmented reality and/or virtual reality systems, working to surface and consider neuroethical considerations in tandem with system design. FRL is soliciting proposals that leverage engineering to address the principles of considering everyone, putting people first by treating data with care, and providing controls that matter by developing tools and methods for data management and privacy. The focus is on the development of noninvasive neurotechnologies for human use (animal studies will not be considered). View

National Institutes of Health #OTA-21-008 – Data Generation Projects for the NIH Bridge to Artificial Intelligence (Bridge2AI) Program – Amount TBD – Letter of Intent Due: 7/20/21*
Funds the creation of datasets addressing significant challenges in biomedical and behavioral research that require AI and ML

Seeks Data Generation Projects to create flagship datasets based on ethical principles, associated standards and tools, and skills and workforce development to address biomedical and behavioral research grand challenges that require artificial intelligence and machine-learning (AI/ML). To facilitate team building across communities and ensure responsiveness of proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged (though not required) to participate in the Grand Challenge Team Building activities prior to July 20 to bring together the diverse expertise necessary to build their Bridge2AI Data Generation Project Teams (follow instructions on the Bridge2AI website). *Required Letter of Intent due by July 20; full proposals are due by August 20, 2021. View


Funds early studies of visionary aerospace concepts addressing NASA goals or offering wider benefits to space or aeronautics applications

NASA’s NIAC Program focuses on early stage feasibility studies of visionary concepts that address national government and commercial aerospace goals. Concepts are solicited from any field of study that offers a radically different approach or disruptive innovation that may significantly enhance or enable new human or robotic science and exploration missions. Innovative research is supported through multiple phases of study; Phase I awards are for up to nine-month efforts funded at up to $175K to explore the overall feasibility and viability of visionary concepts (Phase 2: up to $500K for 1-2 years; Phase 3: up to $2M over 2 years). NIAC will host a virtual forum that will address key aspects of this Phase I RFP on June 16 from 1pm–3pm. *Step-A Proposals are due no later than July 21; invited Step-B Proposals will be due September 21, 2021 (target date). View

Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation – Beckman Young Investigator Program – $600K – Letter of Intent Due: 8/2/21*

Supports innovative, high-risk research in the chemical and life sciences by early-career faculty

Provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science. Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. at the time an award is made (May 2022). *Required Letter of Intent is due by August 2; invited full application is due January 10, 2022. View

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation – Postdoctoral Research Fellowships – $231K – Application Due: 8/16/21

Funds postdoctoral fellowships into the causes and mechanisms of cancer and its treatment and prevention

Supports theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention. Applicants must have received their degrees no more than 18 months prior to applying, must not have been in their Sponsors’ labs for more than one year, and are expected to devote 100% of their time to Damon Runyon-supported research activities. Postdoctoral stipend is $223K over four years; $8K expense allowance is awarded to the laboratory in which the Fellow is working for the Fellow’s educational and scientific expenses. View
John Templeton Foundation – see below for funding areas –
Large (more than $234,800) and Small (up to $234,800) Grants –
Letter of Intent Due: 8/20/21*

**Supports interdisciplinary research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution, and emergence to creativity, forgiveness, and free will**

Grants are made in the following areas:
- **The Science & the Big Questions Funding Area** supports innovative academic research that seeks to address the deepest questions facing humankind, as well as efforts to bring relevant findings to non-specialist audiences through a wide range of media.
- **The Genetics Funding Area** currently focuses on research and engagement projects that explore fundamental genetic and epigenetic mechanisms regulating inter- and trans-generational transmittance of biological information and health outcomes, especially in how early life choices and environmental exposures causally impact development and the early onset of disease, and diagnostic platforms that may predict generational disease susceptibility.
- **The Individual Freedom & Free Markets Funding Area** supports education, research, and grassroots efforts to promote individual freedom, free markets, free competition, and entrepreneurship.
- **The Exceptional Cognitive Talent & Genius Funding Area** supports programs that aim to recognize and nurture exceptional cognitive talent, especially for those at an early stage of life. This Funding Area also supports research concerning the nature of cognitive genius, including extraordinary creativity, curiosity, and imagination.

*Required Letters of Intent are due by August 20. Invited proposals for Large Grants are due by January 21, 2022; invited proposals for Small Grants will have a customized due date based on the project, budget considerations, and Foundation staff workload. View

Raymond Corporation – University Research Program – Up to $500K – Concept Paper Due: 8/27/21*

**Funds engineering and technical research designed to advance the material handling industry**

The Raymond Corporation University Research Program helps drive the next generation of technology for the material handling industry, and encourages faculty and researchers to apply their knowledge of engineering and technical fields, drawing synergies and collaboration between collegiate research and the company. The industry has been involved in virtual reality/augmented reality, energy infrastructure, Internet of Things (IoT), Industry 4.0, ADAS systems, and machine learning. Areas of funding interest include, but are not limited to, The Future of Logistics; Improved Material Handling; and Truck and Operation Evolution. *Submission of a one-page Concept Paper is encouraged (deadline is August 27); feedback will be provided within 30 days. Proposals are due November 5, 2021. View

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations – Private Higher Education Program – Usually $25K to $300K – Letter of Intent Due: 8/27/21*

**Supports programs that advance advocacy for the liberal arts, civil discourse on campus, and purpose-oriented education**

This Program Area supports colleges and universities that prioritize undergraduate education and emphasize the liberal arts. While the Foundations are open to any funding request aimed at supporting Private Higher Education, proposals are especially encouraged concerning these Areas of Focus: Advocacy for the Liberal...
Arts; Civil Discourse on Campus; and Purpose-Oriented Education. Although the Foundations fund a variety of programs in higher education, grants typically support projects that improve student outcomes or enhance faculty leadership. *Required Letter of Intent is due by August 27; invited proposals will be due by November 12, 2021. View

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**Previously Announced Funding Opportunities – May 27, 2021**


Recognizes early-career women in STEM fields, and initiatives to support the participation of girls and women in STEM

The aim of the Awards, in partnership with The Estée Lauder Companies, is to celebrate and support the achievements of women in science, and of all those who work to encourage girls and young women to engage with STEM subjects and who work to support women to stay in STEM careers around the world. Prizes are awarded in two categories: Science Outreach (applications accepted from organizations, departments, individuals of any gender, or project teams), and Scientific Achievement (open to early-career women researchers). The financial portion of the prize is to be used for initiatives linked to the Awards; however, winners are fully responsible for any tax that may be due on the award. View


Supports research in the areas of ocean exploration, marine archaeology, and ocean technologies

OAR is soliciting proposals focused on any one of the following three themes: Exploration of the biological, chemical, and physical ocean environments and areas to inform future characterization, research, and responsible ocean stewardship in unknown or poorly explored U.S. deepwater areas; Exploration and discovery of underwater cultural heritage sites and objects; and Application of new or novel use of existing ocean technologies or innovative methods. *Required Pre-proposals must be received by June 21; full institutional proposals are due by October 8, 2021. View

**Microsoft Corporation – Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship – Amount varies – Nominations Due: 6/30/21 by 12:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time***

Supports fellowships for graduate students doing research in Microsoft’s areas of interest

Global program that identifies and empowers the next generation of exceptional computing research talent who are pursuing research aligned to Microsoft’s areas of focus. Tuition and fees will be covered for two academic years; a stipend of $42K to help with living expenses is also provided. *Interested third-year PhD students must be nominated by their department. Nominations must be received by June 30 at 12:00 pm (Noon) Pacific Daylight Time; invited proposals and letters of
French Institutes for Advanced Study (FIAS) – Fellowship Program – Amount varies* – Application Due: 7/6/21 by 6:00 pm (Paris, France time)

*Fellowships offer living and travel allowances, accommodation support, and research and training funds.

Amazon Research Awards (ARA) – Breakthroughs in Online Advertising: Deep Learning Applications for Online Assets – Up to $80K* – Proposals Due: 7/9/21

*Recipients will also receive up to $20K in AWS Promotional Credits.

Facebook Research – Instagram Safety and Community Health – Up to $50K – Applications Due: 7/13/21

Google Research – Award for Inclusion Research Program – Up to $60K – Application Due: 7/14/21

Supports faculty whose work in computing and technology helps address the needs of historically marginalized groups

Recognizes and supports innovative academic research in computing and technology that addresses the needs of historically marginalized groups around the world and
creates positive societal impact. This year, there is a particular interest in research areas focused on Accessibility, Algorithmic fairness, Higher education & collaboration, and Participatory ML; however, submissions outside of these areas for research endeavors related to computing or technology that impact historically marginalized groups are welcomed, and researchers from any field that prioritizes participation and co-creation with stakeholders in their work are encouraged to apply. View

Environmental Protection Agency – Water Toxicity Sensor Challenge – Up to $15K – Phase I Submission Due: 7/26/21

Funds the design of a simple, quick, and affordable sensor to monitor toxicity in water

A collaborative effort among several government agencies and private sector organizations, this Challenge seeks to help meet the need for better ways to monitor toxicity in water by supporting development of a sensor that can identify whether there are chemical pollutants and natural toxins in various types of water much faster and less expensively than current lab methods for detecting individual, specific chemicals. In Stage 1 of this Challenge, teams will submit designs that could be used to develop biologically-based sensors for use in water systems that can detect the activation of one or more human toxicity pathways. There will be up to three winners of Stage 1, with each winner or team receiving up to $15K each. If the second stage of the Challenge is run, solvers will be asked for a prototype demonstration; the prize pool for Stage 2 is expected to be larger. Identical or essentially equivalent work must not be currently funded by a United States Federal agency. An Informational Webinar was held on June 8; check the website for a possible recording. View

William T. Grant Foundation – Improving the Use of Research Evidence – Funding amounts given below – Letter of Inquiry Due: 8/4/21 by 3:00 pm

Supports studies that enhance the use of research evidence in ways that benefit youth

Projects are invited that identify, build, and test strategies to enhance the use of research evidence—especially by state and local decision makers, mid-level managers, and intermediaries—in ways that benefit youth.

Major Research Grants: $100K to $1M; in addition to financial support, the Foundation invests significant time and resources in capacity-building for research grantees. There are three deadlines annually: mid-January, early May, and early August.

Officers’ Research Grants: $5K to $50K. Provides support for smaller projects; some are stand-alone, others build off larger projects. There are two deadlines annually: mid-January and early August. View

William T. Grant Foundation – Reducing Inequality – Funding amounts given below – Letter of Inquiry Due: 8/4/21 by 3:00 pm

Funds high-quality field-initiated studies on reducing inequality in youth outcomes

This program funds studies that aim to build, test, or increase understanding of programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the academic, social, behavioral, or economic outcomes of young people. Studies about reducing inequality on the basis of race, ethnicity, economic standing, language minority status, or immigrant origins are of especial interest.
Major Research Grants: $100K to $600K; in addition to financial support, the Foundation invests significant time and resources in capacity-building for research grantees. There are three deadlines annually: mid-January, early May, and early August.

Officers’ Research Grants: $5K to $50K. Provides support for smaller projects; some are stand-alone, others build off larger projects. There are two deadlines annually: mid-January and early August. View

Princeton University internal funds – Humanities Council: Working Groups – Amount varies – Proposal Due: 8/31/21*

Supports interdisciplinary reading and discussion groups at Princeton on humanities-related topics

The Council provides funds, connections, and logistical support for faculty, staff, and postdocs who wish to establish or maintain interdisciplinary, humanities-related reading and discussion groups. Groups may invite guest speakers or periodically host interdisciplinary conferences and symposia. Funds are intended to provide full support for new initiatives or sustain those that are not home-based in a department or program. *Proposals are accepted throughout the year and considered on a rolling basis; priority is given to proposals received by August 31 of the relevant academic year. View

Government of Canada – Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships – $140K (CAD) – Application Due: 9/22/21

Funds postdoctoral fellowships in Canada in health research, natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, and humanities

This program provides funding to exceptional postdoctoral applicants, both nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to Canada’s economic, social, and research-based growth. It supports two-year postdoctoral positions at the following: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC); and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Applicants to the 2021-22 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program must fulfill or have fulfilled all degree requirements for a PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree between September 15, 2018 and September 30, 2022 (inclusively), and must complete their application in full collaboration with the proposed host institution. A Princeton institutional endorsement of applications is required as well; please work with your department’s ORPA contact to obtain this. View

Do you know of an upcoming funding opportunity that should be shared with your Princeton colleagues? Please email it to res_fund@princeton.edu at least four weeks prior to the application due date, and we’ll include it in an upcoming Funding Announcement and/or add it to the Princeton Research Funding Gateway. Thank you!
Best regards,
Coleen Burrus
Director