

University of Minnesota
Professional Development Grants for Retirees
Request for Proposals
Deadline: December 11, 2020

The Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Provost, and the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) are pleased to announce a new cycle of Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR). These grants support the pursuit of projects related to retirees' research, instructional, or other work history or new scholarly and/or creative interests that contribute to the educational, scholarly and academic reputation of the University. The deadline for applications is December 11, 2020.

All faculty (professional and administrative) and civil service members from the Twin Cities and Coordinate Campuses of the University who will be fully retired by the time of their award and who are eligible for University retiree benefits may apply. Projects that might be part of an applicant's ongoing, professional activities and proposals for developing new interests are also encouraged. A list of previous awards is available for reference on our website (UMRA.umn.edu, Serving U/Grants for retirees). Grants of up to \$4000 will be awarded. It is expected that the work supported by a grant, even if part of a larger, multi-year undertaking, will be completed within one year's time. Under unusual circumstances, an award period may be extended, with the approval of the Chair of the PDGR Committee. Recipients of grants from previous cycles may apply if they have submitted their project report, as required. Such applications must demonstrate significant progress to be funded.

It is preferred that applications be submitted electronically (although paper applications received by December 11, 2020 will be accepted).

Summary

An application has 5 parts:

1) **Cover Page** that tells who is applying and what department she or he retired from,

- 2) **Project Description** of up to three pages telling what is planned,
- 3) **Budget** describing in some detail how much the project will cost,
- 4) **Resume or CV** describing the applicant's professional history, and
- 5) **Letter(s) of Support** from the applicant's department documenting agreement to manage the grant funds and from any collaborators.

Details

1) Cover Page heading "Application for a Professional Development Grant for Retirees" and listing:

- a) Title of the project,
- b) Applicant's name and University position at retirement,
- c) Department and college or unit,
- d) Date of retirement,
- e) Date of submission,
- f) Addresses: US mail and e-mail for applicant and e-mail for chairperson to be notified if application is funded,
- g) Abstract of no more than 200 words, and
- h) Total funds requested (per budget, see below).

2) Project description of three pages maximum including:

- a) The work to be undertaken [if the project includes human subjects or animals, approval by the appropriate University committee (IRB or IACUC) will be required before funds are disbursed],
- b) The expected outcome and significance of the project,
- c) The resources and methods to be employed,
- d) The project time line,
- e) The relationship of the project to the applicant's professional activities before and/or after retirement, and
- f) Publication and presentation plans.

3) Budget: one to two pages detailing and justifying expenditures to be covered by the grant and listing any other sources of project support whether from personal resources or other funding agencies (show total funds requested on cover page). The total request cannot exceed \$4,000. Applicants should justify the budget. The review committee may award smaller amounts than requested if deemed appropriate.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, travel and per diem costs related to conference attendance and research trips; stipends for undergraduate and/or graduate research assistants (see below); purchase of books, computers, and software; photocopying; postage; and other relevant costs of scholarship.

Ineligible expenses include salary for the applicant and overhead charges by the department/unit/college.

4) Resume or CV of no more than two pages.

5) Letter(s) of support:

- a) from the applicant's home department or unit (chair/head/director or financial officer) agreeing to receive and dispense the grant funds, and
- b) from any key collaborator.

6) Special section for "sequential" applicants (i.e. awardees in the last cycle):

- a) describing the relationship of current application to previously funded project, and
- b) progress on previous project.

Undergraduate Student Research Opportunities

Applicants are encouraged to employ student collaborators in their projects. Students may be employed with no cost to the applicant or the UMRA grant through the following programs.

Undergraduate Research Scholarships (URS) which are awarded to talented freshmen honors applicants by the Admission's Office as an incentive to attend the University. The program provides funds for first and second year students to participate in research and creative projects with a faculty or staff mentor. See <https://ugresearch.umn.edu/urs> for more details.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) which is available for applicants wishing to hire an undergraduate research assistant as part of their project. UROP has agreed to fund the cost of undergraduate research

assistants who work with UMRA grantees. For each assistant, UROP will provide a \$1,400 stipend plus \$300 for expenses. This will be in addition to the award from UMRA. Grantees are expected to serve as research mentors as well as employers for the students. Interested applicants should contact the UROP Coordinator, Vicky Munro, at 612-625-3853 or munro001@umn.edu for further details and help with attracting assistants. Applicants planning to explore the UROP option should state their intent in their project description section of the PDGR application along with an appropriate explanation.

Submission

The grant proposal should be submitted electronically by December 11, 2020 as a single pdf or doc file attached to an email with the subject line, "Professional Development Grant Application," to: facgrant@umn.edu. Paper applications will be accepted if electronic submission is difficult. In that case, one copy should be received by the same deadline to: OVPR-Research Advancement, University of Minnesota, 420 Johnston Hall, 101 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The PDGR Committee appointed by UMRA will review applications and make recommendations for funding. In each case, committee members closest to the applicant's field will lead the discussion. Applicants are advised to present their proposals in language understandable by non-specialists. Awards will be announced in early March, commence on April 1, 2021, and end on June 30, 2022.

Within two months following the grant's end date, awardees must submit a final report that describes activities conducted and achievements, including publications and presentations, realized under the terms of the grant. A listing of expenses incurred should also be provided. The final report should be sent to the OVPR to facgrant@umn.edu. All publications or other project outcomes should acknowledge the support provided by OVPR, the Office of the Provost and UMRA.

Questions concerning eligibility or other related issues should be directed via email to the PDGR Committee Chair, John Bantle (bantl001@umn.edu).