2022 ARIE Seed Funding Opportunities FAQs
<mark>UPDATED: 5/18/2022 – NEW QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ADDED TO BOTTOM OF DOCUMENT</mark>
PLEASE NOTE: This FAQ page will be updated frequently with the update date posted. Please check back frequently

TOPIC AREA

QUESTION:
Are there specific areas of focus or topics that the committee feels are priorities?
ANSWER:
The call is really quite broad. This opportunity is designed to support research, scholarship and/or creative activity addressing the myriad issues on the theme of anti-racism and inclusive excellence. These projects may be highly scholarly/research focused, highly applied or creative. The only caveat is that curriculum development proposals are outside the scope of the opportunity as Mason already has mechanisms for funding curriculum development projects.

QUESTION:
What are your preferred outcomes for this Call for Proposal? Is it to promote "anti-racism and inclusive excellence"? How do you define "inclusive excellence"?
ANSWER:
We expect that the outcomes will vary widely by project. The mission of the ARIE Initiative from the beginning has been to ensure that Mason "creates an inclusive and equitable campus environment in which every member of our community, without exception, is valued, supported, and experiences a sense of belonging." With regard to research, scholarship and creative activities, successful projects will meaningfully contribute to advancing inclusive excellence and anti-racist communities. We recognize that this does not provide the specific guidance you are seeking, but these concepts are, by their very nature, quite broad.

QUESTION:
Would an art exhibit (held at Mason) focused on anti-racism/inclusive excellence would count as "creative activity" for the purposes of this funding.
ANSWER:
The quick answer is yes, it could be. That said, the details will matter in terms of exactly what is being proposed and the extent to which the project meaningfully contributes to advancing inclusive excellence and anti-racism, which is the focus of the ARIE initiative.

QUESTION:
Is the theme of "ant-racism" focused more on Mason community, or is it for broader sense or the society?
ANSWER:
While a project can focus on the Mason community, it does not have to. It could be focused on anti-racism in a broad sense or for the larger community or society.

ELIGIBILITY (of Applicant) and TEAMING:

QUESTION:
I see the team can have external partners, I am wondering whether there are any restrictions on the external partners? Can they can come from industry, government, other universities, community organization, etc. In addition, what will be their roles: can they be senior personnel, or they can also be the Co-PI? In the latter case, can they receive funds if the project gets funded and how?
ANSWER:
The external collaborator can be from a wide range of institutions including industry, community organization/NGO, government, academic institutions, or other external collaborators appropriate for your research, scholarship or creative activity. You also have the flexibility to define the role as is appropriate for the level of effort on the project. While funds can be budgeted for the partner, it should not be the majority of the funding. If funding is needed for external collaborators, they would be treated as sub-awardees on the grant. However, as Mason is providing funds for the seed

funding project, applicants should consider asking the partner to equally invest their time and resources (funding of a student, in-kind contribution of time, other resources) in support of the project. The collaborator should be considered a true *partner* in the project.

QUESTION:
Is collaboration with external partners a requirement/a preferred requirement?
ANSWER:
Collaboration with external partners is certainly allowed as noted above but is neither a requirement nor particularly preferred. You should propose the team needed to complete the work, though there is a preference, as noted in the call, for engaging a diverse team of faculty and students within and across disciplines as appropriate.

QUESTION:
Is there a preference for multi GMU PI vs individual PI for the project?
ANSWER:
There really is no specific preference. Whether you are proposing a multi-PI project or a single-PI and other senior or contributing personnel depends on the project being proposed. You need to propose the strongest team to meet the goals of the project. A strong team would include a diversity of faculty and students within and across disciplines as need to meet the goals of the project.

QUESTION:
Is far as including students is concerned, is it okay to include non-Mason students (e.g. HBCU students)?
ANSWER:
You can include students from other MSIs or HBCUs if that is appropriate for your project. In terms of funding for students, we certainly prefer that there be funding for Mason students and for including Mason students as appropriate in the project.

BUDGET

QUESTION:
Does the $25,000 or $50,000 funding include Indirect/F&A?
ANSWER:
No. Indirect (or F&A) are not charged on internal grant applications.

QUESTION:
Is PI support allowed? What about travel? Is travel to present at a conference allowed?
ANSWER:
Applicants should budget what they need to complete the seed funding project. Salary support for the PI and others is allowed as is travel, but it needs to be justified. Travel to meet with collaborators may not be allowed as such meetings can be often be conducted remotely, thought collaboration on creative activities may require participants to meet in person. Travel to present at a conference would need to be justified in terms of how such travel is needed to meet the goals of the project. Any funding should be explained and justified in a budget narrative or budget justification.

QUESTION:
Does our college's grant department get involved in the budget for this or are we on our own to develop the budget?
ANSWER:
That is really up to you and the resources available in your college. You certainly can ask them for assistance if you want. You should **not** submit a request for OSP assignment for this internal opportunity. While OSP is a terrific resource, they also have limited bandwidth and while these seed funding opportunities are important, OSP is at capacity working with faculty and submitting proposals for external funding. You should also ask your academic unit about any policies related to including salary or a course buyout as part of the budget. Every college is different in terms of their policies related to course buyouts.

QUESTION:
Would it be useful if we used OSP's Excel template for our budget (but leaving off F&A)?
ANSWER:
You certainly can use the OSP budget template if you are familiar with it and comfortable using it. That said, you do not have to use it. You can provide us with a simple budget with each budget item broken out (e.g., Personnel and Fringe; GRA Stipend; Student Wage; Consultants/Subcontract; Travel if applicable; and Other Direct Costs such as specific supplies, data from an external source, equipment utilization fees, publication or printing costs, etc.).
PLEASE NOTE: Regardless of the template used for the budget, you must include a budget narrative or budget justification explaining the costs.

OTHER

QUESTION
What is the earliest start date? When does the clock start on the 12-18 months? Is there a particular time frame by which the project should be started/completed?
ANSWER
As noted in the Call for Proposals, it is our hope that the notification of award be made on or before August 15, 2022 if at all possible. It will then likely take a couple of weeks to get the awards set up, so I believe the earliest start date will be the very beginning of the Fall semester (or very early April). For those projects that need human subjects/IRB review or other compliance reviews before award, the start date may be a bit later.
The clock starts on the 12-18 months when the seed fund award is set up and we would like the projects to be completed in the 12 to 18-month time frame. As noted, we will be asking awardees to present their projects at the 2023 ARIE Annual Conference.

QUESTION:
Are there example proposals for internal seed funding that we can view?
ANSWER:
This is the first time that we are conducting this specific type of seed funding so we do not have exemplars of successful applications. We have had other seed funding opportunities but they had different structures and different review criteria so they would not be appropriate as an exemplar. If you have specific questions, please do reach out to Rebekah Hersch at rhersch@gmu.edu or resdev@gmu.edu.

QUESTION:
We are planning to ask for letters of letters of support for our proposal, but I needed some clarification. Though noted in the Call for Proposals as "letters of support," the description in the call indicates that these really should be letters of collaboration instead, written from collaborators. So, a letter of support from the department chair simply noting the importance of the activity is not permitted, is it?
ANSWER:
You are correct that the letters should be from collaborators acknowledging the way in which they will be collaborating in the project. Letters of support, simply noting the importance of the project, from the department or college are not needed.

QUESTION:
Is the project required to be completed in 12-18 months? If our goal is to complete a pilot study (part of a long-term project) within 12-18 months, will that work for the Committee?
ANSWER:
A pilot study that can be completed in 12-18 months (that is part of a longer-term project) is completely appropriate for this opportunity. We will be asking awardees to present their progress, results, scholarship, or creative activity to date at the 2023 ARIE National Conference.

QUESTION:
Can you tell us what the review criteria are?
ANSWER:
The review process and criteria are noted on the third page of the Call for Proposals.

QUESTION:
Will there be a "selection committee"? How will it be constituted?
ANSWER:
As noted in the Call for Proposals, each application will be reviewed by an external group of experts. Applications will be down-select to a short-list of the most promising proposals. These proposals will be recommended for funding to an internal selection panel. The internal selection committee will be comprised of senior leadership and administrators in the Office of Research Innovation and Economic Impact and Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

QUESTION:
How many awards are you anticipating?
ANSWER:
As noted in the Call for Proposals, we anticipate funding 4-8 projects.