

UGPN RESEARCH COLLABORATION FUND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

The University Global Partnership Network (UGPN) is pleased to announce the inaugural Call for Proposals to the UGPN Research Collaboration Fund. This Fund will support high quality research collaborations between researchers at the UGPN partner institutions. The fund will total US\$180 000, with each UGPN partner contributing US\$60 000.

The intention is that these awards go beyond pump-priming to support substantive engagement that leads to high quality outputs, such as joint papers or joint research bids. Proposals should be jointly submitted by faculty from at least two of the UGPN partner institutions.

The deadline for applications is Friday 30 March 2012.

THE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

The University Global Partnership Network sets out to create a foundation for international collaboration enabling academics and students from some of the world's top universities to work together on issues of global importance. North Carolina State University, the University of São Paulo and the University of Surrey were the founding partners of the UGPN.

The mission of the UGPN is to develop sustainable world-class research, education and knowledge transfer through an active international network of selected Universities collaborating in research, learning and teaching to benefit global society.

The UGPN focuses on two priority areas: (a) promoting global graduates: student experience and employability and (b) promoting research with global impact.

Further information can be found at www.ugpn.org.

THE UGPN RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS

Aims of this award

- To promote high quality and long term research collaboration between faculty / researchers at UGPN partners in areas of strategic importance
- To facilitate the publication of high quality joint research papers
- To facilitate the submission of high quality research bids

Eligibility: applicants

- Proposals are invited from permanent faculty or research professionals at NC State, the University of São Paulo and the University of Surrey.
- All proposals must involve collaboration between faculty from at least two of the UGPN partners, with trilateral collaboration being particularly welcome

Funding

- Funding of up to US\$10 000 (£6 500) for mobility costs per participating institution in each successful proposal will be made available (i.e. up to a maximum of US\$20 000 for bilateral collaboration and up to a maximum of US\$30 000 for trilateral collaboration¹).
- Planned expenditure should be in line with the financial policies of the lead institution.
- Proposals that include matching funds are encouraged.

Duration / timing

- The successful proposals must begin before the end of June 2012 and be completed within one year of commencement.

Indicative activities

Funding will support the travel and subsistence costs associated with researchers spending time at partner institutions. The proposals may also include support for graduate / PhD students where that enhances the project.

Proposals may include collaborative activities such as:

- Workshops, guest lecture and seminars on multidisciplinary research areas
- Video-conference seminars
- Development of a plan to promote industrial research collaborations
- Collaborative research to deliver a joint publication or other output
- Collection of preliminary data to augment a full proposal to a funding agency
- Creation and support of resources such as websites, research collaboration sites, or other social networking tools to facilitate the dissemination of results

The above list is indicative and is not intended to be comprehensive

¹ By way of illustration, a successful bilateral may be funded up to a maximum of US\$20 000 – with US\$10 000 available for mobility costs for both partners.

Eligible costs

Eligible costs include:

- International and local travel
- Accommodation
- Subsistence

Staff costs are not eligible for inclusion.

Funding for the use of a partner's laboratory facilities should not be included.

Format and Guidelines

Proposals should be submitted using the application form that is available at www.ugpn.org

Application process

The proposal and supporting documents should be submitted, as a pdf document, to the following contacts at the respective institution of the lead researcher (PI).

- Mr David Dixon, NC State – david_dixon@ncsu.edu
- Professor Paul Smith, University of Surrey – p.smith@surrey.ac.uk
- Ms. Sandra Lima - international.info@usp.br.

Selection Criteria

A joint committee appointed by the three UGPN partners will assess proposals.

The committee will consider the extent to which each proposal:

- 1) addresses a research problem of global importance
- 2) demonstrates commitment from appropriately qualified researchers from at least two UGPN partners
- 3) has a clear set of activities, with a clearly articulated and justified budget
- 4) focuses on the achievement of concrete outcomes and results

In making their decisions, the selection panel will seek to support a representative variety of research topics.

The panel will particularly welcome proposals that involve all three partners

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to submit a final report, which should be submitted no later than one month after the end of the grant period. The report should include information on:

- activities undertaken

- project outcomes and achievements, including key findings and future plans
- a brief assessment by the lead researcher on the impact (positive and negative) on their research
- actual expenditure against plan

Enquiries

Enquires should be directed to the lead contact within the relevant partner, as identified above.