

Corporate & Foundation Relations

Advancement

Limited Submission Announcement



W.M. Keck Foundation Science/Technology and Medical Research Programs

Overview:

Keck's Research Program seeks to benefit humanity by supporting projects in two specific areas: (1) science and engineering and (2) medical research, that are distinctive and novel in their approach, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field.

Note: Keck describes itself as "an agency of last resort" that only funds very high risk work that NSF or NIH have declined to support, but whose reviewers noted "science was good, but too risky," or something similar. Keck will ask for copies of the reviews from nominees if they recommend pursuit of a Phase 1 application.

UMass Amherst may submit one application to each of the following grant programs:

1. Science/Technology Program - advances the frontiers of the life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering by supporting basic research that is high-risk. Successful projects are innovative, distinctive, push the edge of their field, and have

the potential for transformative impact, e.g., founding a new research field. (Note: Keck rarely funds environmental or alternative energy projects.) To determine the appropriateness of your project, review [abstracts of recently funded projects](#).

2. Medical Research Program - supports pioneering biological research, including the development of promising new technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies. Projects cannot be disease specific and must hold the potential to shift a paradigm. To determine the appropriateness of your project, review [abstracts of recently funded projects](#).

Award Background:

- **Amount:** \$500,000 - \$5 million (typically \$2 million or less)
 - **Note: a 1:1 match is expected** (See UMass' [Cost Sharing Guidelines](#) for more information)
- **Duration of grants:** 1-5 years
- **Number of applications/institution:** 1 per category
- **Number of awards:** varies per year, but is typically between 10 and 12
- If a collaborative project, UMass Amherst must be the lead institution.
- [Directory of Past Awardees](#) - we strongly recommend reviewing past awards to determine competitiveness

Eligibility/Funding Priorities:

Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of interest.
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies.
- Are innovative, distinct, and interdisciplinary.
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches or by challenging the prevailing paradigm.
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem.
- Do not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials, or research for the sole purpose of drug development.
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies.
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy, generally, and the W.M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success.

Deadlines

Internal: June 14, 2019
External: November 1, 2019

Internal Application Process

An internal selection committee, composed of the deans of applicants' respective schools and

colleges or their designees and, if necessary, the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Research Engagement, and/or faculty with relevant expertise, will select up to four nominees for each program to submit to the Keck Foundation during its pre-application counseling period (July 1 - August 15). Based on feedback from the Foundation and deliberation informed by the grant programs' [guidelines and submission requirements](#), the committee will select one proposal in each category to submit by the November 1, 2019 Phase 1 Application deadline.

If you are interested in applying to either of these programs, please email the following as a **single PDF** to cfr@umass.edu by **June 14, 2019**.

- A one-page concept paper (12 pt. font with 1 inch margins) that includes:
 - an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies;
 - a description of methodologies and key personnel;
 - a brief justification of the need for Keck support (e.g., information about your project being denied by other funders for being too risky); and
 - an estimated budget broken down by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (budgets can be rough approximations at this stage)
- A list of current and pending support.
- Documentation of preliminary discussions and approvals by department head for cost share (a roughly 1:1 match is expected by Keck).
- If you are planning to request funding for the purchase of any new equipment, please include a signed [Facility Assessment Worksheet](#) confirming the availability of adequate space to house it.

Additional Information

For additional information, visit [the programs' website](#). To view the typical profile of successful nominees, applicants are encouraged to visit [Recent Awardees](#). If you have technical questions about the grant program(s) or your eligibility, please contact [Liz Smith](#) in [Corporate and Foundation Relations](#).

Please click on the following links for more information
on funding opportunities:

[On-Campus Funding Opportunities](#)
[Funding for New or Early Career Faculty](#)

You can find additional information on the CFR Website:

[Private Foundation Limited Submission Opportunities](#)
[Grant Writing Tips and Suggestions](#)