Research Development Fund

Office of Research Development

Aug. 4, 2020
What is WUN?

A world leading research university network tackling global challenges through international cooperation

23 universities
13 countries
6 continents

UMass joined WUN in 2015
# WUN Members in Six Regions

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WUN Global Challenges

Responding to Climate Change

Understanding Cultures

Public Health: Non-Communicable Disease

Global Higher Education and Research
CROP-FS: Climate Resilient Open Partnership for Food Security - Led by Om Prakash

- 24 investigators
- 5 WUN universities
- 8 Non-WUN universities
- Special issue of Plant, Cell & Environment journal on "Climate Resilient Crops," 2018
- Four International CROP-FS Workshops
Mpower: Empowering Mothers for Health
Led by Elena Carbone

9 investigators
3 students
5 universities
1 community non-profit

Early Career Research Fellowships to 4 grad students in Ghana, UK, Australia, USA

Presentation at 5th Health Literacy UK Conference, Belfast, Ireland, 2018.
In-Herit: The Role of Heritage in Ontological Security During Migration and Displacement
Led by Elizabeth Brabec

46 academics
9 universities
The Role of Heritage During Migration and Displacement, Symposium
UMass Amherst, 2017
Attended by 46 academics from across the network and outside WUN
Ways to engage with WUN

Research Development Fund Opportunities

• Lead an interdisciplinary project
• Collaborate on a project lead by another WUN Member University
• Join an ongoing RDF project
Ways to engage with WUN

Other WUN Opportunities

• Participate in WUN-sponsored workshops
• Join a Global Challenge Steering Group
• Tap into Knowledge Partnerships
  E.g., United Nations, International Organization for Migration & Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Research Development Fund

An annual competitive fund to support the development of collaborative research programs involving multiple WUN members.

The fund can cover:

- Formation of collaborative networks
- Exploratory research initiatives
- Engagement of students
What’s the value to you?

Assistance with accessing a global network of thousands of researchers

- Acts as a springboard for wider funding
- Provides experience in leading an international research project
- Can lead to work with global policy impact on topics of great societal importance
WUN Research Development Theme for 2020: Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic

Addressing these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
UMass Amherst Priority Research Areas

- Responding to Climate Change
- Planetary (Global) Health
  - Relates to two WUN Global Challenges:
    - Responding to Climate Change
    - Public Health: Non-communicable Diseases
How to Participate?

Lead an interdisciplinary project

• Requires collaborators from a minimum of two WUN member universities, one must be non-US

• WUN awards up to £10,000 ($12,600)

• Matching funds requirement suspended for 2020 cycle.

Collaborate on a project lead by another WUN member university

• UMass will help connect you with potential collaborators.
UMass–Led: Two-Stage Selection Process

- UMass can submit two full proposals to WUN and can receive up to two awards.
- UMass Amherst uses an internal selection process to choose two pre-proposals to continue to full proposal submission.
- WUN review and selection conducted by WUN Academic Advisory Group and WUN Executive director.
Eligibility and Internal Review

• **Eligibility** - All full-time UMass Amherst Faculty whose appointments extend beyond the current academic year (including those going on sabbatical).

• **Internal Review** - An internal selection committee will include representatives from each college.
  
  – Review will use the WUN review criteria
    
    • UMass priority research areas are encouraged
    
    • Proposals involving multiple UMass faculty are encouraged.
RDF Guidelines Overview

What are the attributes of a strong project?

1. Academic rigor in addressing sustainable development.
2. Collaborative linkages among WUN members across regions.
3. Enlarge impact and global recognition of WUN.
   - Aligned with major international funding initiatives.
   - Outcomes of broad public interest
4. Aimed at problems that the partnership can pursue with distinct advantage, such as when:
   - Requires distinctive constellations of talent
   - Presents opportunities for comparative analysis, based on diverse geographies and cultural contexts.
   - Utilizes unique resources possessed by one or more partners.

5. Demonstrates the responsible use of resources.
Interested in Leading an RDF Team as PI?

- Review existing WUN projects - [http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/)

- Consider potential partners (both within WUN and beyond WUN). Review partner university websites at [https://wun.ac.uk/wun/members](https://wun.ac.uk/wun/members)

- Identify contacts at potential partner universities. Cold contacts should be conducted by UMass WUN Coordinator.

- Contact WUN Coordinator for UMass Amherst (Loren Walker) for assistance with connecting you with potential partners.

- Apply! Visit the UMass WUN website for application materials
2020 Timeline for UMass PIs

• August 28: Letter of Intent (LOI) due - Requested, not binding.
• September 11: Deadline for pre-proposals
• September 25: Invitations for full proposals announced
  – October 15: Internal deadline for full proposals
  – October 20: Internal deadline for preparation of full proposals in WUN online submission system.
• October 23: Full proposals due to WUN by 5:00 p.m. GMT
• December 11: WUN awards announced
• February 2021: Projects start
UMass–led Proposal Process

**Internal Submission**

- Letter of Intent
- Pre-proposal
  - Application
  - Letter of Support from Chair or Dean
  - One-page CV
  - WUN collaborators: LOI & one-page CV

**Full Proposal to WUN**

- Application
- Detailed budget
- One-page CV
- Letter of Support from each collaborator
- URLs for collaborator CVs
Collaborate on a New RDF Project

• **Contact Loren Walker**, WUN Coordinator for UMass, for assistance with making connections with potential opportunities for collaboration.

• **Submit a Letter of Interest** to the Office of Research Development indicating interest in a collaboration opportunity.

• **Application materials** are accessible via the UMass WUN website

• The matching funds requirement has been suspended for 2020 cycle.
2020 Timeline for UMass Collaborators

• Submit a Letter of Interest (non-binding) as soon as a faculty member is considering participating in a collaboration
• October 9: Deadline for submission of collaboration proposals
• October 16: UMass Amherst Letters of Support sent to project leads.
• December 11: RDF awards announced by WUN
• February 2021: Projects start
UMass Collaborator Proposal

Internal Submission

• Letter of Intent

• Collaboration Proposal
  ✓ Application
  ✓ One-page CV
  ✓ From WUN Lead:
    - Letter of Interest in collaborating. Include project title and potential collaborators.

WUN PI

UMass Letter of Support
Questions?
Learn More

http://www.wun.ac.uk/

UMass Amherst

http://www.umass.edu/research/worldwide-universities-network

Contacts:
Loren Walker
Director, Office of Research Development
WUN Coordinator for UMass Amherst
loren@research.umass.edu
413-577-1060

Mary K. Green
Research Development Associate
Office of Research Development
mkgreen@umass.edu
413-545-8641