**Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate**

**Institutions: Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Research**

**Opportunity Awards (ROA)**

**PROGRAM SOLICITATION**

NSF 14-579

**Full NSF Announcement:**

<http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5518&ods_key=nsf14579>

**SUMMARY OF RUI PROGRAM**

The overriding purpose of RUI is to support faculty research, thereby maintaining faculty members' intellectual vibrancy in the classroom and within their research community, although the involvement of undergraduate students in research is an important feature of RUI. RUI awards augment the educational strengths of primarily undergraduate institutions by providing students with research-rich learning environments.

The RUI opportunity aims to:

1. Support high-quality research by faculty at predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUI);
2. Strengthen the research environment in academic departments that are primarily oriented toward undergraduate instruction; and
3. Promote the integration of research and education of undergraduate students.
4. An RUI proposal *may now* involve shared research instrumentation. However, available support across NSF participating divisions and offices may vary, and Investigators are encouraged to consult with NSF disciplinary officers. The Foundation-wide Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program should be explored as a first choice for research instrumentation requests.

**TYPES OF RUI PROPOSALS**

**a. Single-Faculty Investigator and Collaborative-Faculty Investigators Research Projects**

All NSF directorates participate in the RUI opportunity and consider research proposals submitted by individual PUI faculty members or groups of collaborating PUI investigators. It is expected that the research will usually be carried out at the PUI, but there may be circumstances under which the principal research site is another institution or a research facility (e.g., to provide access to critical instrumentation or environments). Proposals for RUI faculty research projects typically request support for salaries and wages, research assistantships, fringe benefits, travel, materials and supplies, publication costs and page charges, consultant services, essential equipment, field work, research at other institutions, and indirect costs. NSF’s Grant Proposal Guide provides a thorough discussion of eligible costs. While it is expected that research assistants will typically be undergraduate students, support for masters-degree or doctoral students, full-time technicians or postdoctoral researchers may be appropriate for a particular research project.

Increasingly, advances in research depend on skills and knowledge that extend beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries and often require the combined skills of several investigators with different expertise. Collaborations within disciplines or across disciplinary boundaries can enhance the pace and productivity of faculty research while affording students the opportunity to learn teamwork and acquire a broader range of research skills. A successful collaborative project focuses on a research problem that is best approached from broad perspectives. The core of a collaborative RUI research proposal will include two or more faculty members and several undergraduates from one or more predominantly undergraduate institutions. As appropriate other personnel and collaborators at other PUIs and/or other types of institutions may be involved.

**b. Shared Research Instrumentation**

The Foundation-wide Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program (<http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5260>) should be explored as a first choice for research instrumentation requests. Instrumentation requests that are not appropriate for MRI may be considered directly by some NSF programs; however such opportunities vary among NSF programs and prospective PIs are strongly encouraged to contact program officers in relevant NSF programs to determine if instrumentation opportunities are available.

DEADLINES

Proposals submitted through RUI are accepted in all fields of science and engineering supported by NSF, including research on learning and education. Submission deadlines vary by program and proposals must meet program-specific requirements to be considered for review. **PIs must contact the cognizant program officer for guidance.**

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUIs) are accredited colleges and universities (including two-year community colleges) that award Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields, but have***awarded 20 or fewer Ph.D./D.Sci.***  FDU qualifies currently qualifies for this award type.

The principal difference between RUI proposals and standard NSF proposals is the required ***RUI Impact Statement and Certification of RUI/ROA Eligibility***. The Certification of RUI/ROA Eligibility confirms at the institutional level that the criteria for RUI/ROA eligibility are met. In addition, the RUI Impact Statement describes the expected effects of the proposed research on the research and educational environment of the PUI. (See Section V below for information on these documents). RUI proposals are evaluated competitively alongside other proposals submitted to a given program, in accordance with the NSF's standard merit review procedures for that program. The National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria as outlined in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) are used, along with any additional non-RUI review criteria indicated in a program's solicitation (if applicable). Note that special RUI reviewer instructions, which call attention to the RUI Impact Statement and the special circumstances under which RUI investigators work, are supplied to reviewers.

***FDU’s School of Psychology conferred a total of 27 Ph.D. degrees over the past two year. The following was provided by the Department of Psychology: 2016 (17 degrees); 2015 (10 degrees); 2014 (??); 2013 (16 degrees); 2012 (11 degrees), 2011 (12 degrees), 2010 (15 degrees), and 2009 (10 degrees).***

**AVAILABLE NSF ANNUAL FUNDING (based on annual appropriations)**

**NSF Appropriation for RUI/ROA combined: $56,000,000**

Funding for RUI/ROA awards is contained within research and education program allocations and is not held as a separate allocation; funds are provided at the discretion of divisions and offices. However, in recent years NSF has invested on average approximately $53 million each year in RUI research projects.

**AWARD INFORMATION**

RUI awards for faculty research projects will typically be for a period of 3 years. In recent years, the annual award size of individual investigator RUI projects has ranged between $75,000 and several hundred thousand dollars, although some awards are higher.

Awards for collaborative proposals may be at a higher level, depending on the number of faculty and participants involved.

The requested budget should be appropriate for the scope of the project being proposed. Many factors, including the nature of the project, number of investigators, and the project’s duration affect the amount requested. Consultation with a cognizant NSF program officer is strongly encouraged to determine if the proposed budget is within the appropriate funding range for the particular program and circumstances.