



Call for Seed Proposals

Funded by the Wisconsin Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC)

Date for submission of seed proposals: Monday, November 2, 2015.

The Wisconsin MRSEC

The Wisconsin Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) funds seed projects to enhance the ongoing materials research and education thrusts of the Center and to support exploration of transformative new directions. Present research activities in the MRSEC encompass the development of novel compound semiconductors, the dynamics of charge transfer in organic-inorganic electronic materials, and the creation of liquid-crystalline materials and their interfaces. The three Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs) of the MRSEC are: IRG1: New Semiconductors from an Unstable World: Manipulating Strain, Stability, Dimensionality and Flexibility, led by Susan Babcock and Thomas Kuech, IRG2: Molecular and Electronic Dynamics at Organic-Inorganic Interfaces, led by J. R. Schmidt and Paul Evans, and IRG 3: Functional Liquid Crystalline Assemblies, Materials and Interfaces, led by Nicholas Abbott and Douglas Weibel. The Interdisciplinary Education Group (IEG) is led by Anne Lynn Gillian-Daniel and the Interdisciplinary Computational Group is led by Izabela Szlufarska.

Scope of Seed Projects

The MRSEC is soliciting proposals for seed projects to launch new materials research and education directions, or to enhance and expand research programs in the existing IRGs/IEG/ICG. Awards will be for one year, with the potential for renewal for a second year subject to review by the MRSEC Executive Committee. Typically, projects will support one or two graduate student research assistants (50% RA) or postdoctoral associates and supplies. Requests for support of larger seed projects (“super-seeds”) can also be submitted in circumstances where the seed projects are proposed to have the long-term potential to generate a new IRG. All seed projects must be multidisciplinary and include at least two investigators. Small teams of graduate students and postdocs are also encouraged to apply.

Proposals

Proposals must include a description of the project (2 pages), a future-work and strategy section explaining how the proposed seed project could grow or be integrated into a larger multidisciplinary materials research effort (1 page), a budget and budget justification (budget template attached), and 1-page NSF-format biosketches for each participant. Proposals must be submitted by the end of Monday, November 2, 2015 to Erin Gill (emgill@wisc.edu). Awards will be announced in December, 2015. It is anticipated that several new seed projects will be started this year.

More Information

Further information about the MRSEC is available at www.mrsec.wisc.edu. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MRSEC participants and IRG/IEG/ICG leaders to discuss potential projects. Please feel free to contact MRSEC Administrative Director Erin Gill (emgill@wisc.edu) with administrative questions.

MRSEC Seed Budget Template

	Personnel	
1	Graduate student (50%)	\$ 21,648
2	Fringe benefits (23.9%)	\$ 5,174
3	Total Salaries and Benefits	\$ 26,822
4	Other Direct Costs	
5	Materials and Supplies	\$ 5,000
6	Tuition remission	\$ 10,000
7	Total Other Direct Costs	\$ 15,000
8	Total Direct Costs [3+7]	\$ 41,822
9	Modified Total Direct Costs [8-6]	\$ 31,822
10	Indirect Costs (48.5% MTDC)	\$ 15,434
	Total Funds Requested [8+10]	\$ 57,256

Personnel

Funds are requested to support one graduate student at 50% appointment for one year of the project. The student will work with Professor Jones on synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials. Fringe benefits are calculated using the FY2016 rate for research assistants (23.9%).

Materials and Supplies

Funds are requested for starting materials, reagents and solvents, and chemicals for electrochemical synthesis and characterization (\$4,000). The project requires use of NMR, mass spectrometer, and scanning electron microscope. Thus, funds are requested to cover user fees to access these instruments (\$1,000).

Tuition Remission

Tuition remission is requested at the rate of \$10,000 per year for a full time (33.33% appt. or greater) graduate student.

Indirect Costs

An F&A rate of 48.5% is applied to Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). The MTDC is the total direct costs less tuition remission.

Notes:

1. Equipment is not funded by the Seed Program; however, special requests can be submitted to the MRSEC.
2. Purchase of computers (computers less than \$5,000 are classified as a supply) requires approval by the COE Dean's office. Purchase must be itemized in project budget and included in justification. Contact your department or the MRSEC for computer purchase request form.
3. The F&A rate of 48.5% applies to MRSEC only and is in effect until 8/31/2017.