



IIT BOMBAY-OHIO STATE FRONTIER CENTER SCHOLAR GRANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, 2021

SCHOLAR TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Q: Does a Scholar have to travel at the beginning of the contract?

A: No. The hosted research does not have to begin at the start of the contract. The PIs should propose when each Scholar will travel for the hosted research based on project progress and student readiness. Demonstrating a plan that moves towards the hosted research quickly may improve the strength of the proposal by making it clear that the project is ready to go. PIs and scholars will need to allot time for all visa approvals and travel preparations to be in place, and this will take at least three months.

SCHOLAR TRAVEL AND COVID-19

Q: Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, are students able to travel to both campuses for hosted research?

A: Starting in 2021, students have successfully traveled for hosted research. PIs and scholars need to allot appropriate time to obtain the needed visa approvals. PIs and scholars may still need to plan for some flexibility in their schedule if travel and work conditions change again.

EXCHANGE TWO SCHOLARS

Q: Can a single proposal include two students, one from each institution?

A: Yes, this is Track A in the Request for Proposals and is the preferred track. The pair of scholars will be able to collaborate with one another and the PIs. The length of time for supported research will increase from one semester to two semesters (one at each institution). The Project description should specify the distinct roles of each scholar.

BUDGET

Q: Does the proposal need to specify a budget?

A: No. Track A and Track B provide fixed amounts to support the activities at each institution. The project description should make clear how the available research funds will be used to support the scholar projects.

BUDGET FOR TRAVEL

Q: Is \$2,500 enough to support a round trip travel from Columbus to Mumbai?

A: This amount has been enough to support travel. Lodging is covered separately from this amount at the IIT Bombay Guest House. If costs have changed significantly by the time of PI travel, the Frontier Center will address this. There is no need, in the proposal, to specify the travel budgets.

EXISTING PROJECT

Q: Can PIs propose a project that is already receiving funding?

A: Yes. The proposed project *can* be related to an existing, funded project, including projects supported by industry or the Frontier Center. Cost sharing (matching funds) that increase the Scholar's and partnership's impact is highly encouraged. The proposed project must extend the scope of any funded project, have a clear objective for the hosted research that can be completed within the proposed research period, and increase the likelihood of extending and expanding the collaboration through extramural support (government agencies, industry, commercial ventures, or foundations).

SUBMIT TWO PROPOSALS

Q: Can the same pair of PIs receive multiple awards from the Frontier Center?

A: Yes. The PIs will need to present evidence of an existing, successful collaboration, to provide the Frontier Center with confidence that two awards can both lead to successful results and amplify the strength of the partnership.

SCHOLAR REQUIRED IN APPLICATION

Q: Does each Scholar candidate have to be identified in the proposal?

A: No. A candidate does not have to be identified in the proposal. Naming a candidate may improve the strength of the proposal by making it clear that the project is ready to go and will get underway quickly. A candidate must be identified, and agree to participate, prior to contract award.

POSTDOC AS SCHOLAR

Q: Can a postdoctoral researcher be designated as the Scholar?

A: No. The Scholar must be a doctoral candidate. If PIs have a project idea that is better suited to a post-doc, they should discuss that with the Frontier Center leaders separately. There may be other means of supporting that project.