

## Call for Proposals:

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Evaluation Process & Criteria

- **How will proposals be evaluated?**

A faculty committee will review proposals in each of the two focus areas. Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to theme:** Does the proposed research address significant issues relevant to one of the two focus areas?
2. **Collaborative approach:** Does the project propose to advance collaborative research with a McDonnell Academy partner institution?
3. **Potential for impact:** What is the overall quality and significance of the research? Does it approach issues with innovative frameworks, methods or interventions? Does the proposal have the potential to attract funding for the research after the seed grant period has ended or for the project to result directly in a publication?
4. **Submission requirements:** Did the applicant follow submission requirements?

#### Collaborators

- **Do I need to have an international collaborator?**

Yes, all proposals must identify the name and affiliation of at least one international collaborator from any of the McDonnell Academy's [partner institutions](#).

- **Should I include collaborators from more than one McDonnell Academy partner institution?**

If the project would benefit from leveraging more than one partner from the Academy's network, you are welcome to do so. However, this is not a requirement. Consider additional collaborators only if it would add value and increase the impact of your research.

- **Can I get help finding a collaborator at a McDonnell Academy partner institution?**

Yes, we can help you identify prospective collaborators at partner institutions. Email Roumy Theunissen at [rtheunissen@wustl.edu](mailto:rtheunissen@wustl.edu) with a brief description of the project and list partner institutions you are interested in.

## **Budgets & Funding**

- **How will the grants be administered?**
- **What are allowable expenses that can be included in the proposed budget?**

The McDonnell Academy will distribute the seed grants internally to WashU PIs. Each PI is responsible for abiding by university policies, relevant tax and HR-related regulations.

While there are no specific restrictions on what PIs can charge, some general guidelines apply:

- Budgets can cover a variety of research-related expenses such as for data collection, travel, a joint workshop or hiring a research assistant.
- We discourage faculty from putting their salary/allocation on the proposal.
- The expectation is that the funds should stay at WashU. Payment to other institutions should be through a subaward or agreement.
- Indirect costs should generally be limited to 10%.

Each PI will be expected to report on progress and how the budget has been spent by July 2021. The Academy reserves the right to modify budgets or deny funds for certain expense types following review if they do not meet university policies.

- **What is the maximum amount of funding I can apply for?**

A maximum of \$50,000 for one year only. For projects of longer durations, the expectation is that after this initial period, PIs will be able to secure additional funding from external sources.

- **Do I need to include a budget in the proposal?**

Yes, please specify the total amount of funding you are applying for and how the funds will be used.