The Program

The purpose of this program is to give Southwestern students the means and opportunity to explore ideas and interests that fall outside of the usual academic process and curriculum—ideas that may not have a lot to do with a student’s major, that combine interests in more than one area, or are extra-curricular in nature.

Students may work alone, or in collaborative teams.

In the case of the King Grants, “creative” includes artistic work and performances in the obvious sense, but also “creativity” in that students will pursue ideas that no one has looked into before, try developing a device not now available, applying standard techniques from one area to another, etc. The King Creativity program is designed not for the projects you are already going to do, or projects you otherwise couldn’t do, but the projects that, without this fund, you wouldn’t do!

Past projects have dealt with AIDS activism, a study of the neurophysiology of the rat brain, a series of oil paintings on the American Goddess, theatre performances, studies of chimp behavior, design and implementation of an inexpensive solar water heater, the Southwestern University Drum Corps, a study of sleep deprivation in students, the development of Indian Cultural Awareness Month, and the making of student-directed films.

This program encourages creativity and innovation, so don’t be limited by what has been funded in the past. But take a look to see the range of ideas that have been supported by the program: (http://www.southwestern.edu/kingcreativity).

Funding

Proposals may be funded in the range of a few hundred dollars, up to $2,000, but remember that the inexpensive idea is as interesting as the expensive one. Where students are working in teams, the group may apply for the full amount of funding for each student. The amount of funds awarded will depend on the number and quality of proposals submitted. Be prepared to know how you will proceed if the King Creativity Fund is able to provide only part of the funding you apply for.
Selection of the 2009-2010 King Scholars

The King Creativity Fund Selection Committee includes previous King Scholars, interested faculty members, and an administrative advisor. The Committee evaluates proposals on the basis of creative merit, innovation, soundness of proposal, feasibility, and justification of the budget. A sample project rating sheet, used by the selection committee, is attached to assist you in the preparation of your proposal.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be students enrolled in good standing at Southwestern University. Proposals with multiple student authors will be accepted. Student members of the selection committee are eligible to submit proposals, but will recuse themselves from discussion of their proposals. The King Creativity program requests all students who receive King grants to submit their work for inclusion in the Southwestern University Undergraduate Research and Creative Work Symposium held each spring semester.

Application Deadlines and Final Reports

The deadline for the submission of proposals for the 2009-2010 academic year is 5:00pm on October 9, 2009. King Scholars will be notified shortly thereafter. Funds must be spent by May 7, 2010. It is strongly advised that you visit the King Creativity Fund webpage (including the FAQ) before preparing your proposal.

Projects may be conducted at any time following the notification of receipt of the award. King Scholars must present the results of their work at an annual symposium and dinner to be held in the spring on Thursday April 15, 2010. King Scholars are required to submit an abstract of their proposed work by November 13, 2009 and a project summary by March 31, 2010. All projects must be ready and available for presentation at the symposium by April 15, 2010.

King Creativity Fund Proposals should be addressed to:
Dr. Paul J. Gaffney, Dean
The Sarofim School of Fine Arts
c/o Ms. Christine Vasquez
Roy & Lillie Cullen Building, Office of the Provost (1st floor)

Proposals must be submitted in hard copy, and delivered to Ms. Vasquez.
Proposal Format

Proposals will contain the following elements:

1. **Cover Sheet:**
   The cover sheet includes a title that clearly indicates the nature of the project, the name of the student making the proposal, SU post office box number and e-mail address. (In the case of proposals with multiple authors, provide this information for each student.) If your project involves human or animal subjects, it requires approval from either the Human Subjects Review Committee (Dr. Michael Kamen, irb@southwestern.edu) or from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Dr. Fay Guarraci), include such a statement of approval. However, you may pursue approval from these committees after submitting this proposal. However, no funds will be dispersed for projects that require approval from either of these committees until such approval has been documented. Check with your advisor to see if this applies to your project.

   The cover sheet must also include the typed names and signatures of all student involved, as well as the project’s advisor.

2. **Project Description**
   The proposal should be no more than two pages in length. It must include a description of the project, the methodology to be used, a projected timeline, and the project’s proposed impact on you and others. In the case of proposals from more than one student, the proposal will clearly describe the contribution and participation of each student. Remember that not everyone on the selection committee is an expert in the field(s) you are discussing, so write accordingly.

3. **Creativity Statement**
   Provide a statement of how this project fits the Fund’s requirement for creativity and innovation. What is new, different, unusual, creative or innovative? What about this project distinguishes it from what you normally do as a Southwestern student? What led you to want to do this? What is there about this project that you would otherwise not do during your Southwestern career?
KING CREATIVITY FUND
Call for Proposals
2009-2010

4. Resume
A one-page resume for each student, including biographical information, educational and career objectives, declared major, expected date of graduation, education, honors and awards, membership in professional organizations, research/artistic experience, presentations, publications or performances and interests, activities or hobbies. Include any experiences that have made you interested in and qualified to conduct your project.

5. Documentation
Describe how you will document this development and execution of this project. (In addition to wanting a record of your work for yourself, you need to have something to present at the King Creativity Symposium on April 15, 2010.) Video? Photos? Reports? Data? Objects? Etc.?

6. Advisor’s Statement
All proposals must have a letter of support sent electronically from a member of the Southwestern faculty, staff or administration who is willing to serve as an advisor to the student. Letters must indicate the extent to which the proposed project meets the criteria for the King Creativity Fund, whether the project is feasible, how the advisor anticipates overseeing the project, and, when appropriate, certify that required laboratory or studio space is available. In addition, the letter should confirm that the faculty member is willing to supervise the project. This letter should be addressed to the King Creativity Selection Committee, and emailed to vasquezc@southwestern.edu.

7. Budget
The total commitment of funds from the KCF fund shall not exceed $2,000 for each student and may be used to cover any direct expenses incurred in the conduct of the project. Remember that this is the maximum, not the minimum! The King Fund is eager to support small, less expensive idea along with the grand ones. Such expenditures could include, but are not limited to, equipment, supplies, travel to conduct the work (but not travel to present results of the work), and payment of subjects. Equipment purchased with King funds will remain the property of the university and be made available to other students who may need it in the future. (Before you propose to buy something, check to see if a previous King Scholar purchased it.)

8. Assessment
Describe how you will assess your project. How will you define “success?” How will you know if your idea worked?
King Creativity Proposal Rating Sheet

**Creative Merit:** Is the project innovative or visionary? Has the creativity of the project been clearly stated? Does it give the students the ability to stretch, grow and work “outside the box?”

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Soundness of Proposal:** Is the project clearly defined in terms of its purpose, its creativity, its methodology, and its implication for the future? Is the writing clear and concise?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Feasibility:** Is the project feasible within time constraints and budget considerations? Is there a strong possibility that the project can be completed?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Educational Enhancement:** Will the students’ overall educational experience at Southwestern be enhanced by carrying out the proposed project?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Qualifications of Students:** Do the resumes of the individuals involved provide confidence that they can carry out the project? In the case of multiple authors, are their various roles clearly defined?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Budget:** Is the budget appropriate? Can the project be completed for the amount budgeted? Is the budget too high or too low? Has it been carefully considered?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Assessment:** Is there a workable assessment mechanism in place?

0-----------1-----------2-----------3-----------4
Poor     Fair     Good     Very     Good Excellent

**Comments:**