

King Creativity Fund

Call for Proposals

2018-19

The Program

The [King Creativity Program](#) provides funds to students or student groups who wish to work on a significant, independent project under the direction of a faculty member but outside the structure of a course. The program is designed to give Southwestern students the opportunity--and means--to explore ideas and projects that creatively approach problems from new directions, combine the methods and subject matter of multiple fields, connect curricular and extra-curricular interests, or move beyond traditional academic forms of work. Students may work alone or in collaborative teams.

What Kinds of Projects are Eligible? What Counts as “Creativity”?

King Creativity Grants were designed to enable students to pursue projects that stretch disciplinary boundaries, that envision bold new ideas, or that draw both on traditional academic methods as well as approaches from outside the academy. In one sense, the term “creative” invokes the design and creation of something new: a new object or tool; a new process; a new communication strategy; a new performance or work of art; a new narrative, film, archive, or podcast; a new solution to a problem; or a new action. But the emphasis on “creativity” also invokes the use of imagination, the willingness to tackle problems in unorthodox ways or to draw from more than one toolbox, a readiness to take risks, an openness to new perspectives, and an interest in innovation.

We encourage proposals from across the full range of fields and interests. Here are a few ways to begin thinking about potential projects:

- building a scientific instrument or prototype
- developing a new way of educating the public or other students about an issue--for example, by creating a public information campaign; creating a digital site that enables public use of texts, materials, data, or tools; developing a documentary or podcast to explore an issue; designing ways to visualize data or develop interactive tools for working with data; designing ways to engage audiences with narratives or testimony about an issue, etc.)
- creating a new work of art or theater or music
- designing a tool - an app, a website with interactive features, an educational pamphlet, a gadget
- creating new opportunities for activism or advocacy
- designing a study or experiment that asks new questions
- starting an organization to address a social problem or other need
- solving a problem or improving a process at Southwestern
- making archival materials, interview recordings, rare texts, performances, photographs, or other materials accessible to a wider audience - digitally or through an article or exhibit
- creating new opportunities for academic-community partnerships
- + other ideas, strategies, and work

Past projects have included an AIDS activism project, the creation of a human-size hamster wheel, a study of the neurophysiology of the rat brain, a series of oil paintings on the American Goddess, the development of a Pirate bike-tracking app, 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 use of computer algorithms to design ceramic glazes. You can see a full list of previous recipients at <https://www.southwestern.edu/academics/kcf/king-scholars/>. But keep in mind that new proposals are not limited by what has been funded in the past.

Funding

Proposals are usually funded in the range of a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, but there is no set limit to requests. You are encouraged to consider using existing on-campus resources where feasible. Remember that the inexpensive idea is as interesting as the expensive one. The funding level 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 request.

Selection Process

The King Creativity Fund Selection Committee includes previous King Scholars, faculty members, and the Senior Director of Integrative and Community-Engaged Learning. 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.

Student 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.

Deadlines for Applications and Final Reports

The deadline for proposal submissions for the 2018-19 academic year is 5:00 pm on **Friday, October 5, 2018**. King Scholars will be notified shortly thereafter. Funds must be used no later than Friday, April 5, 2019. It is strongly advised that you visit the [King Creativity Fund webpage](#) (including the FAQ) before preparing your proposal.

Projects may begin any time following the notification of the award. King Scholars must present the results of their work at an annual presentation and dinner to be held in the spring on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. King Scholars are required to submit an updated project abstract by March 8, 2019.

King Creativity Fund Proposals should be addressed to the King Creativity Selection Committee. Proposals must be submitted as word documents, with an electronic signature by your sponsor, and emailed to Christine Vasquez at vasquezc@southwestern.edu.

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.
 - *Project team (for group projects).* For groups of students and advisors, identify all members of the project team and include contact information for each student. Your project team list should include, at a minimum, the following:
 - Project Lead(s) (no more than 2). You should identify at least one student or pair of students as Project Leads who will serve as the primary point(s) of contact for any communication between the project team and the King Creativity director.
 - Chief Advisor: If more than one faculty advisor is involved, identify at least one who will serve as the primary point of contact for any communication between the advisors and the King Creativity faculty director.
 - *Approvals:* If your project involves human or animal subjects, it requires approval from either the Institutional Review Board (Dr. Maha Zewail Foote, co-chair, or Dr. Maria Lowe, co-chair) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Dr. Fay Guarraci, chair). Include documentation of approval. 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.
 - *Signatures:* The cover sheet must also include the typed names and signatures of all students involved, as well as the project's advisor. If your advisor or group members are away and unable to sign the proposal, then they may email Christine Vasquez at vasquezc@southwestern.edu to confirm that they are part of the project.

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. Project Abstract (200 words)

The abstract should condense the key points from the full project description. Please develop this abstract carefully. It will be displayed on the Southwestern University website if the project is selected.

4. 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?

5. 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.

6. 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 3, 2018.) Your documentation may include video, photos, reports, data, objects, or posters. We have found it particularly valuable in the past for students to share their work by displaying a poster with information about the project accompanied by a project artifact displayed on a table.

7. Advisor's Letter

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

8. Budget

Funds from the KCF fund may be used to cover any direct expenses incurred in the conduct of the project. The King Fund is eager to support small, less expensive ideas along with grand ones. Such expenditures could include, equipment, supplies, professional services, 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.) Food purchases and commuting expenses are normally not allowed.

Please use the following format to show the breakdown of your project's budget:

Widget Budget
Materials (aluminum, wood, rubber) \$100
Electrical supplies (wires, transformer) \$100
Poster supplies \$100
Total \$300

9. 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

This rating sheet is used by the selection committee to rate and choose projects.

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

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: