



Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Old Main 530
516 High Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225-9038
Phone (360) 650-2884 Fax (360) 650-6811

Selection of NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Proposals

The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program (NSF-MRI) accepts a maximum of two Track 1 proposals (< \$1M) per institution per year, and one Track 2 proposal (\$1M - \$4M) per institution per year. Proposals in either category can support the purchase of new instrumentation, or the development of new next-generation instrumentation. The next submission deadline is January 19, 2021. Because interest in the NSF-MRI program may exceed the allowable number of submissions, an internal selection process is required. For the next submission window Western will use the following process:

Process and Timeline.

PIs should prepare a short pre-proposal as described below and submit it to their respective Dean by **October 13, 2020**. Proposals involving co-PIs from multiple colleges should provide copies to the Deans of all affected colleges, but college-level review will be coordinated by PI's college. Colleges will provide comments to RSP by **October 26**. A broadly representative faculty committee consisting of members having prior experience with major instrumentation proposals and not associated with any current pre-proposal will conduct a review and provide a recommendation to the Vice Provost for Research by **November 2**. * Applicants will be notified by **November 4**.

Pre-proposal format.

Narrative (no more than two pages) addressing:

- Listing of the PIs and co-PIs, description of the instrument, vendor and approximate cost
- Responsiveness to the university's strategic plan
- The scientific merit and broader impacts of the proposal
- Why this proposal is suited for the NSF-MRI program, and what other funding alternatives are being considered and/or pursued.
- Any special circumstances: e.g., reasons why this proposal is better submitted in this cycle rather than a future one.
- If the proposal will be a resubmission, the pre-proposal must be accompanied by reviewers' comments and describe how reviewer's concerns will be addressed in the resubmission (where this is applicable, include it as an appended document).

Appended documents:

- NSF-style biosketches for PIs and co-PIs (2 page max each).
- Reviews from prior submission and brief discussion of how they will be addressed, if applicable.

* If the Vice Provost for Research has a conflict with a pre-proposal, the selection process will be managed and selections made by the Provost or his delegate.