Writing a Successful Professional Development Grant

Professional Development and Recognition Committee (PDRC)
What We’ll Cover

▪ Professional Development Grant Basics
  ▪ Appropriate activities
  ▪ Eligibility

▪ Application Components and Submission Process
  ▪ Demo of online portal
  ▪ Deadlines

▪ Review Process and Funding
  ▪ Evaluation and scoring criteria
  ▪ Common mistakes
  ▪ What happens after submission

▪ Questions and Resources
Professional Development
Grant Basics
What is Professional Development?

Activities that help you:
- Learn new skills
- Add to your knowledge base
- Enhance your competencies

In order to:
- Do your current job better
- Improve your program
- Contribute to the betterment of the university
Appropriate Activities

▪ Job related:
  ▪ Conferences
  ▪ Workshops / Seminars
  ▪ Training to become a trainer

▪ Self-designed activities

▪ Can be on- or off-campus activities
Not Appropriate / Ineligible Activities

- Essential job training or job requirements
  - If you’re unable to do your job without it, it’s not eligible
  - As an instructor, course development is a job requirement so not eligible

- Degree requirements / tuition reimbursement

- Consecutive activities
  - Two separate activities
  - Same activity that you received funding for in a previous cycle

- Memberships

- Equipment, supplies, and/or software

- Salary (including students)

- Travel not meeting UW System guidelines
Grant Eligibility / Parameters

- For activities beginning between July 1 – December 31, 2022
- Must hold at least a 50% academic staff appointment at time of application and during the grant period
  - This includes instructional staff, clinical staff, and limited staff with academic staff backup appt/university staff backup appt/no backup appt
  - Postdocs and graduate students are not academic staff
- Must have matching funds for at least half of the total cost
- Travel plans must follow UW System travel guidelines
- If you’ve previously received a PD Grant:
  - Two rounds since last PD Grant awarded
  - Must be current on reports from past grants
Application Components and Submission Process
Components of Online Application

1. Questions
2. Budget worksheet
3. Documentation about activity
4. Resume
5. Letter of support from supervisor
1. Questions

- Brief summary of proposed activity
- Why are you interested?
  - Make your own original case!
- How will you use and share information learned?
- How will your participation benefit your program/unit/university?
2. Budget Worksheet

- Document and explain all costs
  - Don’t shortchange yourself
  - Funds awarded cannot increase with transportation costs
- Explain omissions; don’t make us guess
- Verify which meals are provided and which need per diems
- Check with your money person about reimbursement and necessary documentation
- You must enter your Department ID # (UDDS #) and program code
- When booking airfare:
  - Use the “lowest logical” airfare
  - Include a comparison print out from Concur
  - [https://businessservices.wisc.edu/travel-reimbursement/planning-a-trip/](https://businessservices.wisc.edu/travel-reimbursement/planning-a-trip/)
3. Documentation About Activity

- Upload brochure, webpage, email, etc.
- Not to exceed five pages
4. Resume or Vita

- **Yours**
  - As it applies to your grant proposal
    - Show connection between your job and the activity you’re requesting
  - 2 pages max

- **Consultant / Speaker**
  - If you’re bringing in a consultant or speaker, only their resume needs to be included
  - Also include other supporting materials
    - Contract, agreement, verify expertise, etc.
5. Letter of Support from Supervisor

- From direct supervisor
  - In some cases, this may be your department chair or dean/director

- Support for your proposal
  - A strong, specific recommendation

- Indicates availability of matching funds and the source
  - May want to include contingency for increased transportation costs

- Arrangements for handling workload in your absence
Submitting Your Application

▪ Go to: https://apps.ohr.wisc.edu/staffdev/
▪ Log in with your Net ID
▪ Select correct competition: Academic Staff Professional Development Grant
▪ Enter information and upload application elements as instructed
  ▪ All supporting documents must be uploaded as PDFs
▪ Once complete, submit application by March 21, 2022
Application Status

After you submit your application, it must be approved at the department level and then at the dean/director level.

It is your responsibility to track the status of your application! If a deadline is missed, your application will not move forward in the process. Follow up as needed with your department chair and/or your dean/director to ensure timely approvals.
## Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant electronically submits completed application</td>
<td>March 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department chair or unit head electronically approves application</td>
<td>March 28, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/College/Division dean or director electronically approves application</td>
<td>April 11, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/College/Division dean or director emails ranked applications to the Secretary of the Academic Staff (if applicable)</td>
<td>April 11, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Check with your School or College about internal deadlines and review and submission processes
- Deadlines are firm!
Review Process and Funding
Application Review Process

- SOAS Office checks for eligibility
- Professional Development and Recognition Committee reviews and evaluates applications
  - Review team consists of half of the Professional Development and Recognition Committee
  - Review team reads and scores all applications
## Evaluation/Scoring Criteria

1. Relevance and Justification (10)
   *Description of how this proposed activity is relevant and significant to this staff member’s UW role; explanation of how it will improve the individual’s effectiveness in their role; clear justification for experience and funding; a strong case made.*

2. Use and Impact (10)
   *Clear vision for how the experience will be used and applied in UW work role; articulated plan for applying the knowledge and information gained; extra points for specific, varied and achievable methods of sharing the information with colleagues, students and campus.*

3. Program and University Benefit (10)
   *Explanation of how this experience will benefit the program / unit / university, contribute to institutional effectiveness, and advance strategic objectives; alignment with stated campus strategies; impact on students.*

4. Overall Quality of Application (5)
   *Appearance of application; quality of the case made; letter(s) of support; participation level of applicant (new professional; experienced professional who is taking initiative, presenter, etc.); creative experience; cost effective; school/college ranking.*
Reasons for Not Funding

- Quality of application
- Incomplete packet
- Ineligible
  - Inappropriate request
  - Reapplied too soon
  - Appointment type/percentage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Period</th>
<th># Submitted</th>
<th># Funded (%)</th>
<th>Average Award</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37 (97%)</td>
<td>$1085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 (100%)</td>
<td>$872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 (100%)</td>
<td>$844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>24 (39%)</td>
<td>$1,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>35 (47%)</td>
<td>$1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>30 (36%)</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>35 (45%)</td>
<td>$979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>35 (65%)</td>
<td>$962</td>
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What Happens Next

▪ SOAS Office notifies all applicants in May 2022

▪ If awarded a grant:
  ▪ Funds will be transferred to your department
  ▪ Complete summary report after activity

▪ If not awarded a grant:
  ▪ Apply again next cycle
In Summary

- Check with your department
- Determine your professional development objectives and activity
- Submit application online
  - Be complete, concise, and compelling
  - Follow submission guidelines
- Monitor application status
  - Be aware of deadlines
- If funded, submit summary report after activity
Questions?

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Resources:
- [https://acstaff.wisc.edu/grants-awards/professional-development-grants/](https://acstaff.wisc.edu/grants-awards/professional-development-grants/)
- Program Overview
- FAQs