

FALL 2020 VIRTUAL GRANTS CONFERENCE

NSF Wide Programs: REU, RET, RUI/ROA



Panelist

Amelia Greer

Associate Program Director, Division of Engineering Education and Centers;
Directorate for Engineering

Jennifer Wade

Acting Section Head, Division Earth Sciences; Directorate for Geosciences

Programs Covered

- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
- Research Experiences for Teachers
- Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions:
Research in Undergraduate
Institutions (RUI) and Research Opportunity Awards (ROA)



“Ask Early, Ask Often!”

Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites and Supplements

- REU Program Solicitation: NSF 19-582
- Deadline Date: August 25, 2021
 - REU Supplements
 - Include as part of a new (or renewal) research proposal
 - Supplemental funding to an existing award
- REU Program Website:
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517
 - Solicitation
 - REU Site contacts
 - Links to recent awards



REU Program Goals

- REU aims to provide appropriate and valuable training experiences for undergraduate students through participation in research.
- REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program.
- REU projects feature high-quality interaction of students with faculty and/or other research mentors and access to appropriate facilities and professional development opportunities.



REU Program Sites

REU Sites

- Must have a well-defined common focus that enables a cohort experience for students.
- May be based in a single discipline or academic department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme.

Proposals

- Should reflect the unique combination of the proposing organization's interests and capabilities and those of any partnering organizations.

Significance

- Important means for extending high-quality research environments and mentoring to diverse groups of students.
- Aims to involve students in research who might not otherwise have the opportunity, particularly those from academic institutions where research programs in STEM are limited.

REU Program Supplements

- Typically provides support for one or two undergraduate students to participate in research as part of a new or ongoing NSF-funded research project.
- Centers or large research efforts may request support for a number of students commensurate with the size and nature of the project (check with the cognizant Program Officer).
- Investigators should give serious attention not only to developing students' research skills but also to involving them in the culture of research in the discipline and connecting their research experience with their overall course of study.



REU Program Special Opportunities

- Partnership with the Department of Defense
- International Projects
- Research Experiences for Teachers



REU Program Eligibility Information

- REU Site Proposals
 - A single individual may be designated as the PI.
 - One additional person may be designated as co-PI
 - Other anticipated research supervisors should be listed as non co-PI Senior Personnel
- Eligible Student Participants
 - Student participants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents.
 - Students who have received their bachelor's degrees and are no longer enrolled as undergraduates are generally not eligible to participate.
 - For REU Sites, a significant fraction of the student participants should come from outside the host institution or organization.

ARE YOU
ELIGIBLE?

Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) Supplement Opportunity

- NSF encourages research experiences for K-12 teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the coordination of these experiences with REU projects.
- Most directorates support RET as a formal activity and announce their interests in RET sites or RET supplements in solicitations, Dear Colleague Letters or on directorate and division websites.
- Requests can be part of an REU proposal
- Contact your program officer if you wish to include an RET component in an REU proposal.

RUI/ROA Program

- RUI/ROA Program Solicitation: NSF 14-579
- RUI: Research in Undergraduate Institutions
- ROA: Research Opportunity Awards
- PUI: Primarily Undergraduate Institution
- Next Deadline Dates
 - Proposals accepted at any time (subject to program deadlines)

RUI/ROA Program Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5518

- Solicitations
- Links to recent awards

RUI/ROA Program Goals

- RUI proposals support PUI faculty in research that engages them in their professional field(s), builds capacity for research at their home institution, and supports the integration of research and undergraduate education.
- ROAs similarly support PUI faculty research, but these awards typically allow faculty to work as visiting scientists at research-intensive organizations where they collaborate with other NSF-supported investigators.



RUI/ROA Program Goals

An RUI proposal may be:

- A request to support an individual research project or a collaborative research project involving PUI faculty and students at their own or other institutions.
- A request involving shared research instrumentation.

ROA opportunities include:

- A supplement to an existing NSF award to support ROA activities for PUI faculty.
- Requests to rebudget funds in an existing NSF award to support ROA activities for PUI faculty.
- Submission of a new collaborative proposal between a PUI and another institution(s), with a ROA component as a subaward or as part of a linked collaborative proposal.

RUI/ROA Eligible Institutions

- Eligible PUIs are accredited colleges and universities (including two-year community colleges) that award Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields.
- Must have awarded 20 or fewer Ph.D./D.Sci. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.



RUI Eligibility

- RUI proposals involving more than one academic institution are permitted, but one PUI must have overall management responsibility.
- Collaborations between PUIs and other organizations may be proposed; however, most of the researchers must be at PUIs.
- A PUI campus must be identified as the Primary Place of Performance
- Each PUI must include a Certification of RUI/ROA Eligibility in the Supplementary Documents section of the proposal.

**ARE YOU
ELIGIBLE?**

RUI Impact Statement

- An RUI proposal must include an RUI Impact Statement of up to five pages.
- Helps reviewers assess the likely impact of the proposed project on the research environment of the PUI.
 - Impact on the careers of the faculty participants
 - Ability of department(s) to better prepare students for entry into advanced-degree programs and/or careers in science and engineering

Impact!

ROA Eligibility

- ✓ Requests involving ROA activities are managed according to the proposed ROA funding mechanism.
- ✓ For collaborative proposals that include a PUI(s) request for ROA activities, the PUI(s) assumes management responsibility for their portion of any award.
- ✓ Certification of RUI/ROA Eligibility must be included as a supplementary document in the PUI's portion of the proposal.
- ✓ RUI/ROA proposals must be employed by or have a commitment to be employed by an eligible home institution (i.e., a predominantly undergraduate institution) at the time the proposal is submitted.
 - ✓ Co-principal investigators may be from other institutions or from doctoral departments.

For More Information

“Ask Early, Ask Often!”



- [nsf.gov/staff](https://www.nsf.gov/staff)
- [nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp)
- [nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp)