Overview

The Research Initiatives in Science & Engineering (RISE) competition was created in 2004 to cultivate and encourage high-risk, innovative, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research projects at Columbia University.

For the 2016 competition, approximately five teams will win up to $80,000 per year, for up to two years’ time, to initiate cutting-edge research partnerships, develop a proof of concept, and submit a developed proposal to government or foundation sponsors.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must:

- Be full-time Columbia employees. Non-Columbia employees may contribute to a project, but only as unfunded Co-PIs.
- Be currently conducting research at the independent faculty-level. Postdoctoral scientists, fellows, and/or residents may contribute to the project, but only as Co-PIs.
- Prepare an application with at least one other PI. (All applications are strongly encouraged to include two PIs.)
- PIs currently receiving RISE funding are not eligible.

Timeline

- September 2015: Application Period Opens
- October 5, 2015: Application Period Closes
- April 2016: Select Applicants Invited to Submit Round 2 Proposals
- June 2016: Winning Teams Announced

Evaluation Criteria

Per the 2016 Round 1 Evaluation Form, applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Innovation**: The novelty, creativity, and/or riskiness of the question posed or methodology proposed. It is not sufficient for the research proposed to be novel for the researcher him/herself; it must be novel to the disciplinary field(s).
- **Interdisciplinarity**: The crossing of disciplinary boundaries and melding of perspectives and assumptions in order to ask novel questions and/or accomplish radically-different techniques.
- **Potential Impact**: If the project proves successful, the sheer force of the discovery on discipline(s).
- **“Fundability”**: The likelihood that the project will receive supplemental government or foundation funding upon completion of RISE funding.
- **Application Quality**: The strength of the argument and plan. It is helpful to communicate discipline-specific information to scientific researchers in and out of the immediately related discipline(s).
APPLICATION MATERIALS

The following documents are required in order to submit an application:

1. The 2016 RISE Application Form
2. Curriculum Vitaes for both Principal Investigators
3. Curriculum Vitaes for any and all Co-Principal Investigators
4. Optional: If the proposed project has been previously submitted to and rejected from government or foundation sponsors, full-text copies of the reviews.

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

All Application Materials must be submitted via email attachment to rise@columbia.edu by 9:00 a.m. EST on Monday, October 5. Late applications may not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS

All complete and eligible applications submitted by deadline will be evaluated by a internal review committee of Columbia faculty. The identities and evaluations of this committee are held in strict confidence. Successful and unsuccessful applicants may request a summary of their application’s reviews by emailing rise@columbia.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For general questions about rules and eligibility requirements, please consult the Frequently Asked Questions page.

To view a list of current and past RISE winners, please consult the Past Recipients page. Please note that this listing is descriptive and not prescriptive; all scientific, engineering, and medical research projects may be submitted for RISE funding.

If your question remains unanswered, please email rise@columbia.edu or call (212) 854-7836.