REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF)

RFP issue date: January 11, 2024
Deadline for submissions: March 10, 2024

Purpose

Columbia Global is seeking proposals from Columbia University faculty and researchers for one- to three-year projects, to be designed and undertaken in collaboration with one or more of the Columbia Global Centers.

The purpose of this program is to support projects that advance collaborative initiatives that will generate new knowledge, enhance global research partnerships, and foster meaningful student engagement. The priority theme of this request for proposals is displacement and migration.

Background

The President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) was launched in 2013 to support innovative projects enriched by the infrastructure, expertise, and connections of the Columbia Global Centers. The 118 grants awarded over the past decade have fostered new, interdisciplinary collaborations among Columbia faculty/researchers and schools; have accelerated innovation through collaborative research and global knowledge exchange; and have provided rich new learning opportunities for students at all levels. Read more about PGIF here.

The Columbia Global Centers are the University’s physical and intellectual gateway to the world. Located in 11 cities across four continents, the Global Centers serve as regional hubs for research, education, training, collaboration, and social impact programming. With staff who have deep roots in their respective countries and regions, the Global Centers drive transformative connections between the University and the world, advancing knowledge exchange, deepening global dialogue, and building local partnership networks to advance innovation and impact.
Types of Awards

PGIF awards are available at two funding levels:

1. **Early Concept Awards** will support innovative collaborations with one or more Columbia Global Center that aim to design, implement, and evaluate early ideas, with the goal of generating the information, data, and/or collaborations needed to pursue larger initiatives. Available funding for early concept awards is **$10,000 - $25,000** (per award) over a period of **1 - 2 years** (beginning May 1, 2024). Up to eight awards are anticipated.

2. **Innovation Awards** will support projects, designed with one or more Columbia Global Center, that show significant promise for building toward a fundable, multi-year initiative. The maximum award amount is **$100,000** (per award) over a period of **2 - 3 years** (beginning May 1, 2024). Up to four awards are anticipated.

Priority Theme: Displacement and Migration

Displacement and migration are major global issues of our time. Working together across disciplines—including the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and other disciplines—offers the potential for deepening the understanding of and engagement with these critical issues, for supporting innovations to tackle their consequences, and for achieving positive impact for all those affected. The profoundly human nature of issues faced by displaced persons, migrants, and host communities call for creative approaches that leverage the rich scholarly expertise and experience of Columbia faculty and researchers.

Columbia Global seeks to complement its ongoing work in this area—through its Committee on Forced Migration—by supporting interdisciplinary work led by Columbia University faculty and researchers across disciplines, in collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers and their local/regional partners.

Eligibility Criteria

- Proposal lead(s) must be full-time faculty or researcher(s) at Columbia University.
- At least one proposal lead must be eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator, per Columbia University guidelines.
- Proposals must include collaboration across disciplines, schools, institutes, or centers.
- Proposed projects must be related to the theme of displacement and migration.
- Proposals must engage one or more Columbia Global Center. Eligible Centers are located in: Amman, Jordan; Athens, Greece; Beijing, China; Istanbul, Turkey; Mumbai, India; Nairobi, Kenya; Paris, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; and Tunis, Tunisia.
- Prior to submission of the proposal, applicants are **required to have, at minimum, one planning consultation** with the Director of the relevant Global Center(s). The purpose of this consultation is to discuss the proposed project, including its feasibility, potential partnerships, and the role of the Global Center(s).

Note: Proposal lead(s) are **not required** to have prior experience in the geographic region(s) where they propose to work.
**Application Process and Deadlines**

Eligible faculty and researchers are requested to submit proposals via the Submittable Platform, which can be accessed [here](#). A PDF outlining all proposal components and questions is available [here](#).

Proposal submissions are due March 10, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST. Award announcements are anticipated in early May 2024.

**Key Proposal Elements**

- **Statement of the problem** or challenge that the proposed project aims to address
- Project **objectives, work plan**, and plan to monitor and evaluate **outputs, outcomes, and impact**
- Overview of the **proposal team**, including relevant expertise and experience
- Overview of **proposed collaboration(s) with local and/or regional entities** (e.g., universities, governments, NGOs, research institutions, civil society groups, cultural institutions)
- Overview of plans to **engage Columbia University students** (undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdocs)
- Description of the role of **collaborating Columbia Global Center(s)** in the proposed project (e.g., in convenings, cultivating local research partnerships, support for research or other activities, and/or providing platforms for exchange, learning, and the dissemination of findings)
- Summary of anticipated **next steps** after completion of the project (e.g., dissemination of findings through conference presentation(s) or publication(s), grant submission(s), etc.)
- **Budget and budget justification**
  - Note: The total budget must not exceed the award’s budget ceiling. There is no indirect cost recovery allowed within Columbia University. Collaborators external to Columbia University that are registered as a 501(c)(3) may recover no more than 10% of total direct costs.
- **Letter(s) of support** from relevant school dean(s) and/or institute/center director(s)

**Templates**

Templates to be used for developing your project work plan, budget, and budget narrative are included below:
- [Project work plan template](#)
- [Budget template](#)
- [Budget narrative template](#)

**Questions**

A virtual event to answer questions about this request for proposals will be held on January 22, 2024 11am - 12pm EST. Please register [here](#).
Resources for Applicants

- This season, Columbia Global is offering five unique opportunities for faculty and researchers. Find out if this is the right one for you by referring to the summaries provided here.
- Columbia Global Center annual reports
- A Guide to Columbia Global Center Spaces
- Columbia Impact Exchange

Technical Support and How to Receive Application-related Reminders

For applicants who encounter technical difficulties or have questions about the submission process, Columbia Global provides a dedicated support team that can be reached at global@columbia.edu.

To keep applicants informed and on track, regular reminders will be sent regarding upcoming deadlines and any updates to the application process. To receive these updates, please initiate your proposal form via Submittable.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of each application will take into consideration adherence to eligibility criteria and proposal requirements, as well as characteristics of the proposed project in terms of innovation, ability to address the challenge, feasibility, scalability, the evaluation plan, and potential to build on the outputs and outcomes. The review committee, composed of experts from various fields, will assess each application based on predefined criteria, ensuring consistency and fairness in the evaluation process.

Reporting Requirements

Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports, as well as a final report at the end of the project period. This includes providing full reporting of funds spent (with the expectation that unspent funds will be returned). Extension requests will only be granted in the case of significant circumstances beyond the control of the project team.