Preparing a Proposal for CGS's Research Environments Study

CGS Webinar for Institutions Applying to Participate
in the Research Environments Study
May 7, 2025, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Before we get started…

- Please keep your microphone muted and camera off until the Q and A period.
- Questions can be submitted at any time via the Chat function.
- After the presentation, feel free to continue submitting questions through the Chat or by raising your hand. We will call on speakers and ask them to unmute.

Scaling a Systems Approach to Inclusive Graduate Research Environments

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Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the funder.

The Research Environments Project Advisory and Selection Committee

- **Joshua Barker**, University of Toronto
- **Igor Chirikov,** University of California at Berkeley
- **Jeni Hart**, University of Missouri
- **Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux**, Caltech
- **Maresi Nerad**, University of Washington
- **Trinetia Respress**, Tennessee State University
- **Michael Solomon**, University of Michigan

Project Background and Overview

- Validate and scale an institutional approach to supporting positive outcomes for all STEM doctoral students
  - NSF # 1954923 conducted by researchers are the University of California, Berkeley

- Expand understanding of the impact of structured and transparent research environments on STEM doctoral students' outcomes:
  - Academic success (timely completion of PhD, research productivity, STEM workforce readiness)
  - Health and well-being
  - Belonging

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between structure and student belonging and success across multiple and varied STEM graduate programs and institutions?

2. To what extent do variables, such as STEM discipline, program size, and student characteristics, appear to impact the relationship between structure and outcomes for all students in STEM doctoral programs?

3. To what extent do student perceptions and experiences of structure align with the perceptions and experiences of graduate faculty and administrators?

4. What are the characteristics of programs with high consensus between faculty and students on measures of structure versus those with low consensus?

The Request for Proposals

Selection Criteria of Note

1. Describe a clear, organized, and feasible plan to implement the required data collection effort on campus.
   - *Successful proposals will include information about how the institution will ensure high response rates to the surveys and program inventories and ensure participation in the focus groups*

2. Describe a clear plan to conduct timely analysis of your institution's data from the surveys.
   - *Successful proposals will include a description of how data will be analyzed and the types of resulting data products that will be developed*

Selection Criteria of Note

3. Describe a thoughtful and feasible strategy for communicating survey findings to stakeholders from participating programs and other institution stakeholders.
   - *Successful proposals will identify intended audiences of resulting analyses and data products and strategies for communicating with the intended audiences*

4. Describe a thoughtful and feasible strategy for using resulting data for program improvement and improvement of students' experiences and success.
   - *Successful proposals will include information about how the resulting data/data products align with and inform program improvement and student success and well-being goals*

Proposal Preparation

1. Cover form provided with RFP
   - Completion of the two tables

2. Proposal narrative (maximum 15 pages total):
   - Brief description of institution
   - Address selection criteria listed on pp. 5-6 of the RFP

Proposal Preparation

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials do not count toward the 15-page limit of the proposal narrative.

Appendices

- Budget
- Budget narrative (1 page)
- Letter of support from president or provost, addressed to CGS Selection Committee

Formatting

- All sections in 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins
- Single PDF to researchenvironments@cgs.nche.edu

FAQs

Q1. Our institution awards a PhD in two of the three required fields. Is our institution eligible to apply?

R1. Yes, an institution is eligible to apply if the institution can commit to collecting data from students and faculty from a minimum of five STEM doctoral programs that award a PhD.

- Data collection must be from at least two of three required STEM fields: Chemistry, Computer, Electrical, and Electronics Engineering, and Computer and Information Sciences
- Data collection must also be from a minimum of three other priority STEM fields – see RFP Attachment B for a list of the other priority STEM fields

Questions?

- Please submit your question in the Chat or raise your hand.
- We are also happy to answer questions by email after the webinar. Please email the CGS project team at researchenvironments@cgs.nche.edu.

CGS Project Team
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