



MIT Lab for  
Innovation Science  
and Policy



MIT  
innovation  
initiative



# MIT INNOVATION INITIATIVE LAB FOR INNOVATION SCIENCE AND POLICY

Open Calls for Innovation Science Research Proposals

## Open Calls for Innovation Science Research Proposals

The MIT Innovation Initiative's Lab for Innovation Science and Policy is an MIT-wide laboratory recently established to define and advance the emerging field of 'innovation science.' This field can be thought of as applying the scientific method to the practice of innovation, i.e. the process of moving 'ideas from conception to impact.' In defining this field, we use a diversity of methods to empirically investigate how innovation occurs, and pioneer a more systematic assessment of possible interventions (such as policies, programs or incentives) to achieve desired innovation outcomes (such as the creation of innovation-driven enterprises, and in the longer-run, job creation, economic and social impact, and a vibrant innovation economy).

To assist professors and students engaged in innovation science research, the Lab for Innovation Science and Policy compiles this list of open calls for research proposals in the study of innovation. We organize this list in three broad sections: **Foundation Sponsors, Internal Funds for MIT Professors and Students, and Government Sponsors.** Grants in excess of \$200,000 with principal investigators from more than one MIT school may be administered and run through the Lab. For these grants, the Lab and MIT Innovation Initiative's fiscal officer will assist in the preparation and submission of the proposal, securing under-recovery (if necessary), and administering the grants once awarded.

While we do our best to be comprehensive, we cannot guarantee that this list includes all open calls that may be of interest to faculty and students conducting research in the field. If you are aware of other relevant calls not included here, please let us know. Users of this list should always refer to the issuing agency or foundation to verify open RFPs, as well as their requirements and terms.

## **FOUNDATION SPONSORS**

### **INNOVATION GROWTH LAB**

*To support randomized controlled trials that build the evidence base on the most effective approaches to increase innovation, support high-growth entrepreneurship and accelerate business growth.*

- **Solicitation:** Call set to launch end of August 2016
- **Deadline:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Grant Range:** None specified, typically between \$10,000 and \$100,000
- **Maximum Term:** None specified
- **Mailing List:** For announcements regarding upcoming calls, sign up for the Innovation Growth Lab [newsletter](#).

### **KAUFFMANN FOUNDATION**

*Our research is contributing to a more in-depth understanding of what drives innovation and economic growth in an entrepreneurial world, and best practices for improving academic achievement in Greater Kansas City.*

- **Solicitations**
  - **General:** Visit the [website](#) for details
  - **Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship**
    - **Details:** Visit the [website](#)
    - **Deadline:** August 17, 2016, 5 pm (Central Time)
    - **Grant Range:** \$20,000
    - **Term:** 2016-2017 academic year
  - **The Future of Work**
    - **Details:** Visit the [website](#)
    - **Deadline:** August 31, 2016
    - **Grant Range:** None specified, typically between \$10,000 and \$100,000
    - **Maximum Term:** None specified

### **SLOAN FOUNDATION**

*The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation makes grants primarily to support original research and broad-based education related to science, technology, economic performance and the quality of American life. The Foundation is unique in its focus on science, technology, and economic institutions—and the scholars and practitioners who work in these fields—as chief drivers of the nation's health and prosperity.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** Rolling
- **Grant Range:** Not specified

- **Term:** Not specified
- **Instructions:** Submit a brief letter of inquiry outlining your idea and inquiring about the possibility of funding (form and required content outlined on [website](#)).

We seek proposals for original projects led by outstanding individuals or teams. We are interested in projects that have a high, expected return to society, and for which funding from the private sector, government or other foundations is not yet widely available. The major areas in which the Foundation is currently making new grants include:

- **STEM Research:** Grants to support original, high-quality research in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Public Understanding of Science, Technology & Economics:** Grants to expand the public understanding of science and technology through the use of books, radio, film, television, theater, and new media.
- **Digital Information Technology:** Grants to advance the creation, dissemination, and democratization of access to knowledge through the use of new developments in digital information technology.
- **Economics:** Grants to support original, high quality research and programs to enhance U.S. economic performance and the quality of American life.
- **Energy and Environment:** Grants to advance our understanding of the economic, environmental, security, and policy trade-offs associated with the increased deployment of low- and no-carbon resources and technologies and the resulting impacts on the quality of American life.
- **Select Issues:** Grants that support unique opportunities or projects that advance a significant interest related to the Foundation's mission but not directly covered by other Foundation grant making programs

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## **INTERNAL FUNDS FOR MIT PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS**

### **MIT SAMUEL TAK LEE (STL) FUND**

*The Samuel Tak Lee MIT Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab (STL Lab) aims to educate future entrepreneurs and thought leaders in the real estate sector to undertake socially responsible investment and development.*

### **STL Fund Faculty Seed Research Funding**

*The STL Lab's program will include a think tank intended to be a center of excellence for advanced research and publications in the field of socially responsible real estate entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on the future development of the PRC.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** Now closed. Will reopen in February 2017
- **Grant Range:** \$20,000-\$50,000 per year; up to \$150,000 for two years
- **Term:** Up to two years

The Samuel Tak Lee Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab (STL Lab) will announce every February, the request for proposals for its research/think tank program and welcome submissions from across MIT. Proposals should focus on innovative, cross-disciplinary research relevant to socially responsible real estate development and entrepreneurship.

### **STL Fund DUSP and CRE Graduate Fellowships**

*The Samuel Tak Lee MIT Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab has established a graduate fellowship program that allows students who enroll in the programs of Master of City Planning and Master of Science in Real Estate Development to receive financial support toward tuition and living expenses. Selected Samuel Tak Lee Graduate Fellows (STL Fellows) must be admitted to the master programs by either the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) or Center for Real Estate (CRE), and they must show a proven interest in socially responsible real estate entrepreneurship, especially in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The selection of the STL Fellows will take place on a yearly basis.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** Application deadline for MIT DUSP or MIT CRE master's programs
- **Grant Range:** Not specified, supports tuition and living expenses
- **Instructions:** Applicants who want to apply for the STL Fellowships must indicate their interest explicitly in the financial aid section of the application form for admission to the master programs in either DUSP or CRE. There is no separate form to be filled out. Applicants must also show in their personal statement how their research interest ties to the mission of the STL Lab.

### **MIT INNOVATION POLICY LAB**

The mission of the International Policy Lab is to enhance the impact of MIT research on public policy, in order to best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. The purpose of the IPL is to assist MIT faculty members whose research has policy implications in engaging with the policy community by

providing staff assistance and modest grants for travel, outreach, and the preparation of presentations or briefs for a policy audience. Proposals are welcome from all those at MIT with PI status.

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** No relevant RFP's currently open. However, a next call is expected.
- **Maximum Award:** \$10,000
- **Maximum Term:** Not specified

### **EDWARD B. ROBERTS (1957) FUND AND THE JEAN HAMMOND (1986) AND MICHAEL KRASNER (1974) FUND**

*Established with the goal to support primarily scholarly activities in the areas of technology-based entrepreneurship. Chaired by Ed Roberts, Pierre Azoulay and Antoinette Schoar.*

- **Solicitation:** Email chair of group with proposal
- **Deadline:** Rolling; no current open calls, but may consider unsolicited proposals
- **Grant Range:** Not specified, typically capped at \$20,000
- **Term:** Not specified, typically one year

Past calls requested a short application of no more than three pages. The application should describe the main research idea or project that will be conducted, the research methodology, and how the grant funds will be used. There will be some preference for grant applications targeted towards funding research that involves doctoral students or undergraduates.

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## **U.S. GOVERNMENT SPONSORS**

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)**

*The [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. The NSF fulfills its mission chiefly by issuing limited-term grants—currently about 12,000 new awards per year, with an average duration of three years—to fund specific research proposals that have been judged the most promising by a rigorous and objective merit-review system. Most of these awards go to individuals or small groups of investigators. Others provide funding for research centers, instruments and facilities that allow scientists, engineers and students to work at the outermost frontiers of knowledge.*

For a listing of all open NSF funding opportunities, click [here](#).

### **Relevant Calls by NSF Section**

#### **NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)**

*SBE supports the research that underlies findings that public investment in science and engineering yield high rates of return to society, as well as other research that builds fundamental knowledge of human behavior, interaction, and social and economic systems, organizations and institutions.*

- **Active Funding Opportunities:** Visit the [website](#) for details

#### **NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**

*The NSF SBE holds an annual competition for postdoctoral research fellowships that now includes a track for interdisciplinary education and training.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** October 31, 2016
- **Grant Range:** \$62,000 plus \$10,000 for travel
- **Term:** Maximum of two years
- **Additional Info:** Click [here](#)

#### **NSF SBE Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS) Program**

*An interdisciplinary program in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences that supports the development of innovative, analytical, and statistical methods and models for those sciences.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** August 25, 2016
- **Grant Range:** \$50,000-\$100,000
- **Term:** Not specified

MMS seeks proposals that are methodologically innovative, grounded in theory, and have potential utility for multiple fields within the social and behavioral sciences. As part of its larger portfolio, the MMS Program partners with a consortium of federal statistical agencies to support research proposals that further the development of new and innovative approaches to surveys and to the analysis of survey data.

#### **Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Statistics and Surveys - R&D, U.S. S&T Competitiveness, STEM Education, S&T Workforce**

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details or download the [PDF](#)
- **Deadline:** Annual. January 17, 2017, January 15, annually thereafter

- **Grant Range:** \$50,000-\$100,000
- **Term:** For dissertation awards, 12 months with possibility of renewal

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) would like to enhance its efforts to support analytic and methodological research in support of its surveys, and to engage in the education and training of researchers in the use of large-scale nationally representative datasets. NCSES welcomes efforts by the research community to use NCSES data for research on the science and technology enterprise, to develop improved survey methodologies for NCSES surveys, to create and improve indicators of S&T activities and resources, and strengthen methodologies to analyze and disseminate S&T statistical data. To that end, NCSES invites proposals for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, workshops, experimental research, survey research and data collection and dissemination projects under its program for Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Statistics and Surveys.

**NSF: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)**

Welcomes efforts to use NCSES data for research on the science and technology (S&T) enterprise, to develop improved survey methodologies for NCSES surveys, to create and improve indicators of S&T activities and resources, and strengthen methodologies to analyze and disseminate S&T statistical data, including on innovation systems and measures, and competitiveness.

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** August 18, 2016
- **Grant Range:** Not specified, roughly \$100,000 per award
- **Term:** Not specified

NCSES welcomes proposals for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, conferences, workshops, symposia, experimental research, data collection and dissemination, computer equipment and other instrumentation, and research experience for undergraduates. The program places a high priority on interdisciplinary research.

**NSF: Economics**

*Supports research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part. This program also strengthens both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as the methods for rigorous research on economic behavior. It supports research in almost every area of economics, including econometrics, economic history, environmental economics, finance, industrial organization, international*

*economics, labor economics, macroeconomics, mathematical economics, and public finance.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** August 18, 2016
- **Grant Range:** Not specified
- **Term:** Not specified

NSF Economics welcomes proposals for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, conferences, workshops, symposia, experimental research, data collection and dissemination, computer equipment and other instrumentation, and research experience for undergraduates. The program places a high priority on interdisciplinary research.

### **NSF: Science of Organizations (SoO)**

*SoO funds research that advances our fundamental understanding of how organizations develop, for and operate. Successful SoO research proposals use scientific methods to develop and refine theories, to empirically test theories and frameworks, and to develop new measures and methods.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** September 6, 2016 and September 3, annually thereafter
- **Grant Range:** Not specified
- **Term:** Not specified

Funded research is aimed at yielding generalizable insights that are of value to the business practitioner, policy-maker and research communities.

- Intellectual perspectives may involve (but are not limited to) organizational theory, behavior, sociology or economics, business policy and strategy, communication sciences, entrepreneurship, human resource management, information sciences, managerial and organizational cognition, operations management, public administration, social or industrial psychology, and technology and innovation management.
- Phenomena studied may include (but are not limited to) structures, routines, effectiveness, competitiveness, innovation, dynamics, change and evolution.
- Levels of analysis may include (but are not limited to) organizational, cross-organizational collaborations or relationships, and institutional and can address individuals, groups or teams.

- Research methods may be qualitative and quantitative and may include (but are not limited to) archival analyses, surveys, simulation studies, and experiments.

### **NSF: Science Technology and Society (STS)**

The Science, Technology, and Society (STS) program supports research that uses historical, philosophical, and social scientific methods to investigate the intellectual, material, and social facets of the scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical (STEM) disciplines. It encompasses a broad spectrum of STS topics including interdisciplinary studies of ethics, equity, governance, and policy issues that are closely related to STEM disciplines, including medical science.

Examples include, but are by no means limited to:

1. Societal aspects of emerging high-tech technologies (e.g., nanotechnology, synthetic biology, neuroscience, robotics, drones, ubiquitous computing, crowdsourcing, remote-sensing)
2. Societal aspects of emerging low-tech technologies (e.g., paper microscopes; whirlwind wheel chairs)
3. Issues relating to equity, ethics, governance, sustainability, public engagement, user-centeredness, and inclusiveness.
4. Integration of traditional STS approaches with innovative perspectives from the arts or humanities.

- **Solicitation:** Download the [PDF](#)
- **Deadline:** February 2, 2017, and February 2, annually thereafter
- **Grant Range:** Approximately \$150,000
- **Term:** Not specified
- **Review Process:** 6 months

### **NSF: The Science of Science & Innovation Policy (SciSIP)**

*The Science of Science & Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program supports research designed to advance the scientific basis of science and innovation policy. The program funds research to develop models, analytical tools, data and metrics that can be applied in the science policy decision making process and concern the use and allocation of scarce scientific resources.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details. SciSIP calls for interdisciplinary research and grants broadening participation.
- **Deadline:** September 9, 2016, and September 9, annually thereafter

- **Grant Range:** \$50,000-\$750,000
- **Term:** Not specified

### **NSF: Engineering and Systems Design (ESD) Program**

Supports fundamental research leading to new engineering and systems design methods and practices for specific global contexts.

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadline:** September 1-15, 2016, and September 1-15, annually thereafter
- **Grant Range:** Not specified
- **Term:** Not specified

ESD seeks intellectual advances in which the theoretical foundations underlying design and systems engineering are operationalized into rigorous and pragmatic methods for a specific context. In addition, the program funds the rigorous theoretical and empirical characterization of new or existing methods for design and systems engineering, identifying in which global contexts and under which assumptions these methods are effective and efficient. Such a global context includes both a domain (such as energy systems, consumer products, cyber-physical systems) and an economic, socio-political, environmental and technological context.

### **NSF: Partnerships for Innovation Program (PFI)**

*The NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) program within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) is an umbrella for two complementary subprograms, Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR) and Building Innovation Capacity (BIC). Overall, the PFI program offers opportunities to connect new knowledge to societal benefit through translational research efforts and/or partnerships that encourage, enhance and accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship.*

- **Solicitation:** Download the [PDF](#)
- **Deadlines:** Letter of intent due September 8, 2016. Full proposal due October 11, 2016
- **Grant Range:** \$200,000
- **Term:** Not specified

The subject of this solicitation is PFI: AIR-Technology Translation (PFI: AIR-TT). The PFI: AIR-TT solicitation serves as an early opportunity to move previously NSF-funded research results with promising commercial potential along the path toward commercialization. Projects are supported to demonstrate proof-of-concept, prototype, or scale-up while engaging faculty and students in entrepreneurial/innovative thinking.

## **U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. The scaling of innovative, practical and cost-effective interventions to leverage the enormous potential of Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership (STIP) to help solve humanity's greatest challenges. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invites organizations and companies to participate with USAID in response to STIP BAA Addenda issued under this BAA, as described below, to apply STIP approaches to support sustainable development outcomes. This BAA serves to inform the public of the opportunity for funding for STIP in USAID. Actual opportunities for funding and partnering to address development challenges will be issued as Addenda to the BAA. The terms of the BAA apply to each STIP BAA Addendum.*

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
  - **Deadline:** Overall response date by August 31, 2016. It does not appear that any calls for proposals are currently open. New calls under this program may become available in the future.
  - **Grant Range:** Not specified
  - **Term:** Not specified
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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

This program is one of several sequential steps being taken by [NCATS](#) to evolve the CTSA program to augment its ability to, as suggested by a recent Institute of Medicine program [report](#), “enhance the transit of therapeutics, diagnostics, and preventive interventions along the developmental pipeline; disseminate innovative translational research methods and best practices; and provide leadership in informatics standards and policy development to promote shared resources.”

- **Solicitation:** Visit the [website](#) for details
- **Deadlines:** Full proposal deadline depends on review cycle. Remaining starting dates include: November 10, 2016; March 9, 2017; July 13, 2017; November 9, 2017; July 11, 2018.
- **Grant Range:** Not specified
- **Term:** Not specified

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite pre-applications from applicants who have an interest in ultimately submitting an application to [Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\) Program \(U01\)](#)