Global Resilience Institute Cross-College Research Seed-Funding Program

About the Global Resilience Institute

The Global Resilience Institute (GRI) at Northeastern University is an initiative involving all nine of its colleges, making Northeastern the first university to establish resilience as a university-wide focus. GRI is underwritten by a major internal investment that positions it to undertake resilience-related initiatives that will contribute to the safety, security, sustainability, health and well-being of individuals, communities, systems, and societies. In the face of intensifying disruptions of all kinds, both slow- moving and sudden, the concept of resilience is gaining worldwide traction and relevance. The research and educational mission of the Global Resilience Institute is to develop and deploy practical tools, applications, and skills that bolster the capacity of societies at multiple levels to successfully navigate the challenges associated with a more turbulent world. It will accomplish this by organizing and leading external partnerships with the world’s top universities and research centers, by facilitating new interdisciplinary research collaborations, and by working in close partnership with industry, government and non-governmental organizations. Northeastern is uniquely positioned to undertake this effort because of its pursuit of research that focuses on discovering solutions to the global challenges in health, sustainability and security. Additionally, it is home to professors and research centers that have been making widely recognized contributions to resilience scholarship and public policy.

Within the theme of resilience, the Institute will support multi-disciplinary research in seven strategic focus areas that draw on the diversity of resilience-related expertise that already exists at Northeastern University. This includes research capacity in network science, health sciences, coastal and urban sustainability, engineering, cyber-security and privacy, social and behavioral sciences, public policy, urban affairs, business, law, game design, architecture, and geospatial analysis.

1. Tools and measurement: Research and development of risk-based models, visualization, and simulation tools and measurement methodologies to support urban planning; public policy; community development, public safety, security, and emergency management; and post-disaster recovery and adaptation.

2. Design and engineering: Research on cross-sector design of infrastructure, systems, and networks that prepare for climate change and other disruptive hazards – both man-made and naturally occurring.

3. Governance and incentives: Research on the role of regulations, standards, codes, and market-based incentives such as insurance, reinsurance, and financing that can advance early and widespread adoption of resilience best practices by public, private and non-governmental networked organizations.

4. Individual and health: Research on the capacity for individuals to cope and respond to trauma and adversity, and to stay healthy while aging, including linkages between physical and emotional health.

5. Social and community: Research on social interactions, networks, and communications to include the role of social media within communities; cultural resilience; inclusive well-being and prosperity for all members of a community; barriers that contribute to growing socio-economic inequality, racial and gender exclusion, and other forms of disparity in vulnerabilities and opportunities.
6. **Security and systems**: Research on the role of resilience in response to transnational threats; conventional and cyber-physical attacks on critical infrastructure with the associated risk of cascading failures; and cyber, information, and communications security.

7. **Socio-ecological**: Research on integrated ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural systems in the context of climate change, globalization, and other anthropogenic disruptions.

**Objective of the GRI Seed-Funding Program**

Through a competitive review process, the Institute will be making available seed-funding for resilience-related research collaborations. This funding will support innovative, cross-college research proposals within Northeastern University. The goal of the program is to provide *1-2 years of seed funding for research projects that will then be positioned to successfully compete for major external grants. Awardees are expected to work with GRI on identifying follow-on sponsors for the research and to pursue external grants by the end of Year 1 of funding.

* Your project will go through a review at the end of Year 1 to determine if funding will indeed be made available for Year 2 – based on your ability to show progress toward external sponsorship of the project.

**Available Funding**

Annual funding per project is expected to range from $30,000 to $75,000. Note: these amounts may vary over time.

**Funding Eligibility**

Faculty from all nine colleges at Northeastern University who are committed to building interdisciplinary resilience research capacity will be eligible to apply for funding per below:

1. Proposals must have a detailed, collaborative research plan for a performance period of 1-2 years.

2. Proposals must be novel and involve co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) from at a minimum of two colleges. Proposals with over two colleges involved will be deemed more attractive during the review process.

3. Proposal co-PI’s must have a faculty appointment. Eligible faculty appointments include tenured or tenure-track faculty, Teaching Professors and Professors of Practice, non-tenure in-residence research faculty, other non-tenured affiliated research faculty, clinical professors, and research scientists/scholars.

4. The proposed project must rely predominantly on the work of the co-PIs.

5. Proposals may incorporate post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants, research associates, adjunct faculty, and graduate students, but these researchers cannot serve as co-PI’s.

6. Proposals must describe PI’s plans to pursue future external funding. Awarded projects will be reviewed at the end of the first year to determine if funding will be made available for the Year 2, based on the team’s ability to show progress toward external sponsorship. Awardees are expected to work with GRI to identify follow-on sponsors for the research and to pursue external grants by the end of Year 1.

7. You may participate in up to one seed grant proposal.

8. You may not be awarded a Tier award and a GRI Seed grant within the same fiscal year, for the same project.
Proposal Format

All proposals will be submitted via the GRI Seed Grant Funding portal found on the GRI website. Proposals will be a single PDF document with a file name that clearly identifies the proposed project. The proposal must follow the template found on the portal with the following sections:

a. Proposal Cover Page (including contact Information of all co-PIs and necessary signatures)
b. Project Summary (200 words or less)
c. Research Plan (3-4 pages not including references)
d. Budget & accompanying Budget Justification
e. 2-page CVs for each of the co-PIs

Proposal Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by the Seed Grant Selection Committee, a panel composed of representatives from the GRI Advisory Council and GRI Leadership. The selection committee will provide award recommendations to the GRI Director who, in concert with Northeastern's Senior Vice Provost for Research, will make final award determinations.

Proposal Submission

The last deadline for applications was January 31st, 2018.

Project Reporting

Awardees will be required to submit periodic progress reports, participate in GRI semi-annual research progress workshops, and submit a final report at the conclusion of the award period. In addition, each team will be required to submit 2 blogs for the GRI website, including one from co-PIs and one from Research Assistant(s). Throughout the funding period, awardees will work with GRI on identifying follow-on sponsors for the research and pursue external grants. By the end of Year One of funding, the awardee must identify an external funding source and demonstrate progress toward obtaining funding from the source.

Eligible Expenses

Project award funding may only be used for direct costs in the following categories:

- Support personnel essential for conducting the research project, such as doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research assistants
- Northeastern resources that require fee-for-services
- Participant incentives for recruitment in field studies
- Travel that is necessary to conduct the research or to meet with future sponsors
• Minor equipment (<$5,000) necessary for conducting the research
• Project supplies, including materials and external services
• Other specifically authorized expenses that are essential for carrying out the research.
• Summer salary of co-PIs *

*Course Buyouts/academic year salary can be considered in special circumstances if well justified and with approval from Department Chair and College Dean.

Project award funding may not be used for the following:

a) Living expenses
b) Service/maintenance contracts on equipment
c) Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations
d) Major equipment purchases ($5000 or more)
e) Institutional and/or individual memberships in professional organizations
f) Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries
g) Investigator training costs, including tuition

Questions:

For questions about expenses:
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For questions around the program:
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