

W.M. KECK FOUNDATION – RESEARCH PROGRAM GRANTS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
INTERNAL LIMITED SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

CAMPUS DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.

Submit applications via OVCRI special programs:
<https://specialprograms.research.illinois.edu/>

The UIUC campus is seeking concept papers for *groundbreaking research projects that address critical, unsolved scientific questions* for a potential **Phase I application submission** to the W. M. Keck Foundation's Research Program.

Eligible PIs may submit Concept Papers for:

- **Keck Research Program - SCIENCE & ENGINEERING Phase 1 November 2023**
- **MEDICAL Phase 1 November 2023**

KECK RESEARCH PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Funding is awarded for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Does not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Falls outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success

ELIGIBILITY

The Keck Foundation is open to funding faculty and faculty teams at junior and senior levels. Keck is interested in interdisciplinary research and collaborating scholars, each with their own special expertise, whose work is converging to develop breakthrough technologies that address/solve an intractable problem. PIs should convince Keck that they need this particular group of experts who have a solid plan to make a big leap forward with this project.

AMOUNT AND DURATION OF FUNDING

W.M. Keck Foundation is most receptive to proposals in the **range of \$1M to \$1.5M**. Three-year grants are most common. Although W.M. Keck Foundation does not require formal cost sharing, they prefer not to be the

sole funder and like a commitment to the project from the applicant's home institution. Toward the Illinois commitment, Keck will recognize overhead and graduate student support, as well as commitments of space, renovations, and equipment. ***Keck does not allow indirect costs (including the infrastructure charge).***

Internal Concept Paper Guidelines:

Provide a **one-page concept paper** with ***12-point font and 1-inch margins*** that includes:

- an overview of the proposed project, including your project goal, research problem/need, and a brief background for context;
- a description of the methodologies emphasizing your pioneering or transformative solution and any unique aspects or pilot studies;
- expertise of key personnel;
- a brief justification of the need for Keck support, especially if previously declined by traditional funding agencies; and
- an estimated budget broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (budgets can be rough approximations at this stage).

If there is room, the authors are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution's prominence in the field, etc.). Avoid illustrations in these single-pagers – the researchers will need all the room for text. If a reference is necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, '11). **DO NOT USE** (Jones et al., 2011).

CAMPUS SELECTION PROCESS

UIUC's review committee may select ***up to 4 concept papers*** in **Science & Engineering Research** and ***up to 4 concept papers*** in **Medical Research** to discuss with Keck representatives during their pre-application counseling period. Only the staff from the Office of Foundation Relations and representatives from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation may participate in the discussion with Keck officials.

Based on input from W.M. Keck Foundation during this consultation, our campus may then nominate ***up to one*** project for Phase I submission for **Science & Engineering Research** and ***up to one*** project for Phase I submission for **Medical Research**. The Office of Foundation Relations in coordination with the OVCRI will follow up with the selected nominee(s) to assist with the development and submission of Phase I applications.

CAMPUS CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

Please direct all questions to **Julie Elzanati**, Director of the Office of Foundation Relations and liaison to the W.M. Keck Foundation: **elzanati@illinois.edu** or **217-300-5579**. Please do not contact program officers or other staff at the W.M. Keck Foundation.

The Office of Foundation Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sends the concept papers and all related communications to the W.M. Keck Foundation.