

Components of an RUI Proposal

- Project Summary (1 page)
- Project Description (15 pages)
- Literature References
- Biographical Sketch (2 pages)
- Budget and Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities and Equipment
- RUI Impact Statement (5 pages)

Project Summary

- Research – 1 paragraph
- Broader Impact – 1 paragraph
 - Education of undergraduates
 - Publications/review articles
 - Talks
 - Patents
 - Collaborations
 - Educational Outcomes of Research

Project Description

- Results of Prior NSF Support
 - Up to five pages
 - Any NSF grant within the past five years
 - Keep to minimum unless directly related to the project in the proposal

- Future Plans

You must convince reviewers that:

(1) the work is significant – why the work you want to do is important and needs to be done

(2) that you have a well designed experimental plan that is likely to succeed

- The research plan must be justified – reviewers must appreciate that the planned experiments are well thought out and will accomplish what you want to investigate
 - Not wishful thinking
 - Not a laundry list
 - Provide plan B if plan A is risky
- Make sure that the literature references are thorough – but don't inundate the proposal with references in an attempt to impress through sheer numbers.

- You can mention aspects of the broader impacts throughout, but remember that there is an RUI impact statement. Make sure that discussions of the impact do not diminish or distract from developing the scientific research in the proposal

RUI Impact Statement

- A chance to promote your activities
 - Institutional
 - Departmental
 - Individual
- Importance of research to all three
- Success stories within all three
- The approach taken by any or all three to provide students with a better educational experience

Biographical Sketch

- Follow the directions!
- Up to ten publications – problem if none are recent (will need to address this somewhere in the proposal)
 - Five closely related to proposed work
 - Five other significant ones
- Synergistic activities – up to five

Current and Pending Support

- List all sources of external grant support
- May be a problem if you don't have a track record of external grant support – probably need to address this somewhere in the proposal

Budget

- Ask for what you really need
 - Don't over or under request
- Stipends
 - Up to 2/9 summer salary
 - Student summer support
 - Technicians (if appropriate)
- Travel
- Equipment
- Materials and Supplies
- Publication costs
- Sub-contract costs
- Indirect costs – you will have a negotiated institutional rate
- Matching – not required for RUI and deleted from the materials a reviewer will see

Budget Justification

- Explain summer salary – if work entire summer with students, request 2/9
- Justify the number of student stipends – include the different components of the project that justify the number requested
- Justify the travel (meetings or collaborations)
- General idea of what materials and supplies money will be used for
- Thoroughly explain anything “unusual” in your budget
- Matching – not required – but mention examples of how your institution provides support for your work and include a dollar value of some of these items
 - Faculty/student travel support
 - Equipment maintenance
 - Free housing for summer students

Facilities/Equipment

- Convince the reviewers that the infrastructure and expertise is in place to complete the work
 - Dedicated lab space
 - Equipment
 - Other resources that support your work
 - If expertise not in place – establish a collaboration and document it with an attached letter

How CUR Can Help

- CUR Quarterly - December 2004 issue is on writing more competitive RUI proposals
- Proposal writing institute