

Meadows Exploration Awards

Statement of Policy

Updated September 26, 2018

The Meadows Exploration Awards were established to provide funding for grants to support undergraduate student creative activity, scholarship, and research. The Awards are designed to support both individual and collaborative student research and creative activity in diverse ways including, but not limited to, providing funding for travel, materials, equipment, and support services.

This funding is intended to encourage and provide support for Meadows students to explore and expand their creative and research skills beyond the classroom and in ways that go beyond what would be considered ordinary or basic practices within disciplines or across disciplines. Applications that are given the strongest consideration for funding are those that involve the exploration of new ideas, new concepts, new materials, and new approaches.

Beginning in the Fall of 2016, in order to further encourage collaborative and multidisciplinary activities and initiatives, priority for funding will given to those proposals which are interdisciplinary in nature and which propose to involve students from multiple Meadows academic disciplines.

And, foremost consideration for funding will continue to be given to those proposals that explore innovative approaches to research and creative projects.

Grant funding is typically awarded in the amounts of either \$350, \$500, or \$800, and while the estimated budgetary needs for a project will be reviewed and considered, the amounts of the grants that are awarded (either \$350, \$500, or \$800) will be based primarily on the quality of the proposed project and not on the estimated amount of funding that the project may require.

While there is great value in undertaking any activity that is structured primarily to expand a student's academic experience and knowledge (learning for learning's sake), Meadows Exploration Award funding is not awarded to support activities undertaken solely for that purpose. Activities such as participation in educational programs, seminars, or workshops or other purely learning or experiential activities cannot and will not be funded. The funding is intended to support focused research and creative activity that leads to specific publications, exhibitions, performances, and/or other products of the work undertaken.

Documentation and Outcomes

Proper documentation of expenditures and of the eventual results of the research/creative activity is required. A full budgetary summary, with documentation according to university policy, is expected immediately upon the completion of the grant. A narrative summary of the creative work/research, its importance, and any plans for further dissemination is expected within 30 days of the completion of the grant.

Criteria

Students submitting proposals must have formally declared majors in the Meadows School of the Arts. Each proposal must have a faculty sponsor and must be approved by the Department/Division/Institute Chair/Director before being forwarded to the Office of the Dean.

Applications

Electronic copies of this Policy Statement and of the required forms are available online at <http://www.smu.edu/Meadows/TheMovement/ResearchAndCreativity>.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants whose projects involve international travel must register their proposed travel and their participation in an international research/creative project with the SMU International Center/SMU Abroad. The purpose of this registration is, in part, to enable the university to get in touch with the student in case of emergency. Exploration Award funds will not be awarded without confirmation of registration from SMU Abroad.

Application Process

A complete application includes a “Proposal Form,” a narrative proposal statement (including a detailed budget), a “Summary Outline,” and a “Faculty Sponsor Form.” Each applicant must first submit his/her completed application and all supporting materials (including a completed and signed Faculty Sponsor Form) to the Chair/Director of the Department/Division/Institute in which the applicant is a declared major.

The Chair/Director reviews the completed set of application materials and makes the decision whether or not to approve the application for submission to and consideration by the Awards Committee. Applications that are incomplete or poorly prepared or that do not meet the funding criteria as described earlier in this policy should not and will not be approved and forwarded to the Senior Associate Dean by the Department/Division/Institute Chair/Director.

Grant requests that are approved by the Division/Institute Chair/Director are forwarded to the Senior Associate Dean who recommends funding to the Dean. Since Meadows Foundation funding must be tracked separately, funds will remain in the Dean’s Office, and allocations will be monitored by the Senior Associate Dean.