

Grants for UC Davis Graduate and Professional students!

Blum Center for Developing Economies
University of California, Davis

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2020

Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Solutions (PASS)

Background

The Blum Center for Developing Economies, part of the Global Learning Hub – Global Affairs (<https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/pathways/experience/blum>) was established in 2011 and seeks to engage the UC Davis campus in finding creative and sustainable solutions for alleviating global poverty. Our work is in four strategic areas: Education, Engagement, Sustainability, and Research.

Purpose

The UC Davis Blum Center for Developing Economies announces the Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Solutions (PASS) awards program which provides seed funding to graduate and professional students for innovative, practical and tangible solutions for reducing poverty around the globe.

Eligibility

PASS grants are offered campus wide, and require a faculty member serving as a mentor/advisor.

Categories

PASS projects may be geared towards one of the following categories:

- 1) On-site research

2) Practical, “hands on” application

Funds Available

Applicants can apply for funds from **\$1,000 to \$4,000** to cover travel-related and relevant project costs. **Neither in-kind nor match are required.** Institutional in-direct will not be taken from the total grant amount.

Priority Topics

With this Call For Proposals, we are soliciting proposals for pilot projects that address poverty alleviation. Some topics of interest include food security, water, climate, waste, sustainable agriculture, public health, renewable energy, environmental stewardship, innovative business, animal health, marketing, education, and development applications (not limited to these topics).

Proposals may focus on one of the following areas: field testing; market research and impact or life cycle cost/benefit analysis; assessment of financial viability; and/or development for innovative technological solutions, product or system designs that demonstrate effectiveness in alleviating poverty and have the potential for scale-up.

Projects need not encompass all of these components, and projects devoted to developing new solutions, technologies and/or advancing fundamental knowledge essential to sustainable practices are encouraged.

Some possible examples of proposal projects types include:

- Implementing novel solutions to increase agricultural productivity in developing economies.
- Producing bio-based materials and feedstocks.
- Providing safe drinking water and/or sanitation.
- Mitigating and/or supporting improvements in public health.
- Creating novel applications of wireless solutions for human benefit that reduce poverty.
- Utilizing innovative information technology solutions for improving livelihoods, learning, intelligent farming, etc.
- Implementing renewable energy based micro-power and/or off-grid systems for the poor.
- Developing post harvest technologies that reduce loss.
- Mitigating lifecycle environmental costs/footprints across a supply chain.
- Reducing exposure to chemicals throughout the life of a product.

- Decreasing emissions (air, water & land) and non-useful by-products.

Additional topics are welcomed and will be considered.

We will consider solid proposals those that demonstrate:

- **a clear connection with the Blum Center mission**
- **the feasibility and sustainability of the project**
- **a good budget/budget justification**
- **clearly the problem addressed and the solution through effective methodology**
- **how the expected outcome will improve the livelihood of the benefitted poor community**

Proposal Content

Application:

A complete application includes all of the following submitted online, through the application system (Blum Center website):

- 1) Completion of the travel grant application form.
- 2) Estimated budget (from \$1,000 to \$4,000).
- 3) One letter of recommendation, preferably from someone who can speak of your academic or professional experience (**Note:** you must upload the letter through the system as part of your application packet. Lose letters sent to the Center will not be considered. An application packet missing a recommendation letter will not be accepted).
- 4) Current resume.
- 5) A faculty advisor for this project and his/her contact information.

The proposal must include Section I (A-G), Section II (H-I), and Section III (J-K) as outlined below.

Section I (A-G), the core content of the proposal, is limited to 5 pages total in length. Section II, timeline and budget, is limited to one single page for each item (i.e., 2 pages in total). Section III has an unlimited page limit with the exception that the Vitae/Resumes should be limited to two pages per key project personnel. Any supplemental materials provided must be highly relevant to the project proposal and critical to reviewers in the evaluation. The review committee may request additional information, if desired.

I. Sections A-G limited to 5 pages total in length:

- A. Cover page with project title, current contact information and project abstract



- B. Background and explanation of the problem you are trying to solve, including the target group (i.e., who will be helped)
- C. Project goals with specific outcomes anticipated
- D. Methodology or strategy being used to meet the goals and objectives given the funding available (including any funding already obtained for this project)
- E. Anticipated scalability and/or sustainability of the proposed project once funding is expended
- F. Implications for future studies/programs with next steps outlined once the project is completed
- G. Evaluation plan

II. Sections H-I limited to a single page per item (for total of 2 pages for this section):

- H. Timeline (up to one page)
- I. Budget/Budget justification (up to one page)

III. Sections J-K unlimited page length, except as noted below, however supplemental information included must be highly relevant:

- J. Vitae/resumes for PI and any key additional project team members if relevant (limited to 2 pages per person). No need to submit the resume of a faculty mentor.
- K. Supplemental information, only if critical to evaluation of this proposal (unlimited pages, but materials must be highly relevant to implementation or critical for reviewers in understanding the project)

PLEASE NOTE: it is **your responsibility to determine if your project includes “Human Subjects Research”. If so, you must ensure that all IRB approvals, if necessary, have been obtained before work on your project begins. NO FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR ANY PART OF YOUR PROJECT if verification in the form of the review letter from IRB has not been received by the Blum Center. For detail on which research requires IRB approval, see UC Davis Institutional Review Board website at: <https://research.ucdavis.edu/policiescompliance/irb-admin/>**

If “Human Subjects Research” is not being conducted and IRB does not apply to your project, please provide a note to that effect with your proposal under Section III (K – supplemental information).

Proposal Format

The proposal must be submitted through the official channel: the Blum Center website. Pages



must use 12 pt. font (or equivalent) and be single-spaced. Applications submitted through e-mail or mailed to the Blum Center will not be considered.

Budget

The budget must indicate the requested amount with a brief justification for each category.

Requests for funding can be from \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$4,000. The budget must indicate any other sources of current funding for the project.

Travel-related costs such as airfare, local transportation, visas and lodging are allowable and anticipated. Project materials and supplies are allowable if highly relevant. Equipment, salary (not self), benefits and consultants fees are allowable costs with justification.

IMPORTANT: awardees must certify with Student Accounting that there are no balances owed to the University (debts) prior to receiving the grant amount. Per University policy, funds available in the account go towards debts. That means that grant funds allocated to the account would automatically go towards debts, which is not allowed by the Blum Center's program. The student is solely responsible to ensure that his/her University account will receive the total amount of Blum grant funds without issues, so that the student can utilize the entirety of the funds on the project. In case Blum grants go towards existing debts, the student will be obligated to reimbursing the Blum Center accordingly, knowing that these funds are not supposed to be expended on items unrelated to the selected project.

Evaluation and Review

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of merit as determined by a faculty review committee established to evaluate the PASS grants program and be done in keeping with the UC Davis Blum Center objectives. Consideration will also be given to the qualifications of the proposer(s) and fit with the overall goals of this Call For Proposals (see priority topics above). In addition, consideration will be given to the following:

- 1) The funds requested are leveraged to the extent possible by other funding sources and/or in-kind support.
- 2) The budget is reasonable for the work anticipated, including additional funding on hand from other sources if necessary.

Award Requirements

Acceptance of a Blum Center PASS grant is agreement to complete and meet the following commitments:



- **Required:** Award recipients will be required to submit an **abstract** (200-300 word summary) once project work is completed. Note, this will be posted to the UC Davis Blum Center website and should be written for a general audience (see: <http://blumcenter.ucdavis.edu>).
- **Required:** Award recipients will be required to submit a **final project report**. This report should contain information including, but not limited to, changes made to the original proposal, analysis, outcomes, lessons learned, and future implications and objectives. The report deadline is 60 days upon completion of the grant project.
- **Required:** At least **three blog posts** written either while preparing to work abroad, while in the field, or upon return. Blogs will be posted to the Blum Center's blog at: <http://blumcenter-ucdavis.blogspot.com>
- **Required:** At least **10 photographs** from the field (blog post and final report photos count towards this requirement).
- **Required:** Upon return (within 5 business days), awardees will complete and submit a travel expense report (present an excel spreadsheet indicating each expense, the amount in the local currency, and the amount converted into US dollars. All receipts must be scanned and submitted to Lili Larson (lklarson@ucdavis.edu) by email along with the excel spreadsheet.

Should you become a Blum grantee, the Blum Center must be mentioned as the funding source in all eventual publications or references to your project. The Blum Center shall be informed accordingly and receive copies when appropriate.

Submit complete application through the Blum Center website:

<https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/pathways/experience/blum/grants/pass>

For questions, please contact Lili Larson, Executive Director, UC Davis Blum Center:

lklarson@ucdavis.edu.

Deadline: March 31, 2020 by 11:59PM.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Would you like to work with a non-governmental organization with which you can partner? Please refer to the UC Davis website – homepage – NGOs Directory for a list of organizations and contact information.