

Baylor University
Office of the Vice Provost for Research
NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program
Submission Policy

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) catalyzes new knowledge and discoveries by empowering the Nation's scientists and engineers with state-of-the-art research instrumentation. The MRI Program enables research-intensive learning environments that promote the development of a diverse workforce and next generation instrumentation, as well as facilitates academic/private sector partnerships.

INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

Faculty interested in submitting an NSF MRI proposal must first submit a letter of interest to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR). Letters of interest should be brief (no more than two pages) and must describe the proposed equipment, outline its use, and provide a budget. Letters should also identify potential sources of cost-share funding from the requesting department or college.

Applications should indicate clearly how faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students will benefit from the proposed equipment acquisition and preference will be given to proposals that support interdisciplinary participation.

Letters should clearly address the proposed project's relevance to the MRI Program's goals as articulated in the [program solicitation](#):

- Supporting the acquisition of major state-of-the-art instrumentation, thereby improving access to, and increased use of, modern research and research training instrumentation by a diverse workforce of scientists, engineers, and graduate and undergraduate students;
- Fostering the development of the next generation of instrumentation, resulting in new instruments that are more widely used, and/or open up new areas of research and research training;
- Enabling academic departments, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary units, and multi-organization collaborations to create well-equipped research environments that integrate research with education;
- Supporting the acquisition and development of instrumentation that contributes to, or takes advantage of, existing investments in cyberinfrastructure, while avoiding duplication of services already provisioned by NSF investments;
- Promoting substantive and meaningful partnerships for instrument development between the academic and private sectors. Such partnerships have the potential to build capacity for instrument development in academic settings and to create new products with wide scientific and commercial impact.

Letters of interest must be submitted to the OVPR by 5:00 local time on the Friday preceding the NSF pre-proposal deadline by five weeks. The Vice Provost for Research will make the final decision as to which proposals will be supported by Baylor (which requires a 30% cost share match) and will notify the investigators. Selected investigators will be responsible for preparing the full NSF proposal in accordance with NSF guidelines and meeting all program and university requirements and deadlines.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [NSF MRI Program Solicitation](#)
- [NSF Grant Proposal Guide](#)