

**Carnegie Mellon University**

# Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## **Andrew W. Mellon Seed Grants for Technology-Enhanced Learning & Digital Humanities**

### **Call for Proposals**

Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences announces a call for proposals from Dietrich faculty. Funds are available to support promising new humanities research and education activities in two domains: (1) learning science and technology-enhanced learning (TEL); and (2) digital humanities (DH) and computationally assisted humanities research. These funds are intended to seed a community of DH and TEL collaborators at CMU, welcoming projects from faculty who have not yet worked in these areas, and pilot projects that can lead to larger external grant proposals. Funding of up to \$10k per project is available through a generous Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant combined with matching CMU funding to foster DH/TEL. Faculty may also request up to 30 days of technical personnel time (e.g., for technology support, pedagogical and/or assessment support, production of instructional resources, digital humanities consulting, multimedia design, programming or tool development, and data analysis) available from Eberly Center TEL staff & Dietrich College DH staff. Projects may be budgeted over 1-2 years. It is expected that 4-8 grants will be awarded, and approximately half of these will be targeted for faculty *new* to the TEL or DH arena. Full-time visiting faculty and non-Dietrich faculty are welcome to apply as co-PI, as long as the primary PI is Dietrich faculty.

#### **Deadlines**

Application Deadline: February 10, 2017

Decision letters: March 17, 2017

Funding available: No later than May 1st, 2017

**Questions?** Contact Andy Norman at [anorman@cmu.edu](mailto:anorman@cmu.edu)

Proposals can be submitted for either of the following programs:

### **Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Seed Grants**

***Objectives:***

The Mellon Foundation supports ongoing innovation at CMU through increased faculty involvement in the development of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) resources in the humanities. Mellon TEL Seed Grants are intended to allow CMU faculty to pursue research or education projects aimed at improving student learning outcomes through technology. This may include the development of new technology-enhanced tools for CMU courses, technology-enhanced course modules, assessment tools, and/or learning science research.

Proposals should strive to do one or both of the following:

1. **Demonstrably improve teaching and learning in the humanities at CMU**, by implementing a promising technology-enhanced course innovation and seeking to assess its impact on student learning/engagement, here in Pittsburgh or on CMU's global campus.
2. **Pursue humanities-related learning research within or outside of CMU**, e.g., by developing and assessing a technology-enhanced instructional method within a course, by developing and assessing a novel educational technology or an existing technology used in a novel way; or by leveraging educational data to make a scientific discovery.

Proposals should address the following:

- **Deploy technology-enhanced learning in some form.** Novelty of educational technologies per se is not the focus of this program but rather the effective and innovative use of educational technologies to enhance learning outcomes or learning science. Proposed work may involve the integration/application of existing educational technologies OR the creation of new educational technologies.
- **Collect and analyze data on student learning outcomes.** Projects should include direct measures of student learning to assess the effectiveness of educational interventions, guide ongoing improvements, and/or test hypotheses about learning.
- **Articulate a sustainability plan.** Projects should explain how the proposed work will likely be maintained or leveraged beyond the scope of the seed grant. Examples include: implementing a TEL innovation that is likely to be used by others at CMU or beyond OR producing a basis for writing future, successful grants to external funders. (In the latter case, PIs are encouraged to indicate specific potential sources of funding.)
- **Describe impact of the work on learning research or educational practice.** Proposals should provide a compelling case that the proposed work will make a difference within the project's scope and ideally beyond.
- **Leverage results from previous learning research** (need not be the PI's). Proposals should include an evidence-based rationale for the feasibility and success of the proposed work.

All those considering a TEL proposal are **strongly encouraged** to discuss their ideas at our drop-in individual consultation sessions (from 10am-2pm on 1/23 and 2/2 in Cyert Hall A-70) or by requesting a 1:1 consultation by emailing [eberly-ctr@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:eberly-ctr@andrew.cmu.edu). These consultations are designed to enhance a proposal's fit to the evaluation criteria. Consultations can address a variety of needs and interests, including:

- Refining a pedagogical idea or strategy and its implementation;
- Identifying, matching, or designing educational technologies to meet pedagogical needs; and/or
- Developing a study design and identifying relevant learning data to assess impacts of

the proposed project.

Please note, we welcome meeting with colleagues to discuss ideas at any level of development. In addition, if you wish to review some materials on technology matching and data collection/assessment before meeting with Eberly Center colleagues, please visit [www.cmu.edu/teaching/proseed](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/proseed).

***Funding details:***

Proposals for TEL Seed Grants are encouraged to request funds of \$10,000 or less; while larger awards may be requested, they are unlikely to be awarded. In addition to direct funding, recipients will have access to support from the Eberly Center, including an educational technology specialist. Further details about budget are described below.

## **Digital Humanities (DH) Seed Grants**

***Objectives:***

The Mellon Foundation supports ongoing innovation at CMU through the development of Digital Humanities (DH) research initiatives. Mellon DH Seed Grants are intended to allow CMU faculty to pursue technologically-inflected humanities research projects, broadly construed. These may include computationally-driven humanities analysis; humanities digital tool building; public or crowdsourced humanities mediated through computers or the web; or humanistic explorations of technology & digital culture. Pilot projects with strong prospects for further funding via foundations, government agencies, or other external sources are particularly welcome.

***Criteria:***

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- **Intellectual Significance-** The project would stimulate or facilitate new research of value to scholars and general audiences in the humanities, or would use digital technologies to communicate humanities scholarship to broad audiences. It would encompass work of intellectual significance in its potential to enhance research, teaching, or learning in the humanities.
- **Merit of Approach-** The idea, approach, and/or methods under consideration would be innovative, and the technology employed in the project would be appropriate.
- **Project Organization-** The conception, definition, organization, and description of the project are clearly expressed.
- **Feasibility-** The project's plan of work could be accomplished during the grant term, and the start-up activities will significantly contribute to the project's long-term goals. The qualifications, expertise, and levels of commitment of the awardee and collaborators are sufficient to achieve the project's short-term goals. (Note: the PI does not need technical expertise if the proposal shows they have sufficient support from the DH Specialist, DH Developer, or other collaborators.)

*If applicable, pilot project proposals should discuss opportunities for obtaining additional sources of support and likelihood of the project being sustained beyond seed funding.*

Our Digital Humanities Specialist Scott Weingart can offer applicants guidance. If you'd like to consult with him, please email [scottbot@cmu.edu](mailto:scottbot@cmu.edu).

***Funding Details:***

Proposals for DH Seed Grants are encouraged to request funds of \$10,000 or less; while larger awards may be requested, they are unlikely to be awarded. In addition to direct funding, recipients will have access to consulting from the digital humanities specialist and some programming assistance from a digital humanities developer. Further details about budget are described below.

## How to Apply

### ***Proposal Details:***

Proposals for both the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and Digital Humanities (DH) Grant programs should be prepared as follows:

***Cover Page (1 page)*** with the following information:

- Principal (or Co-Principal) Investigators' names, affiliations, and contact information
- Title of the project
- Grant for which you are applying: TEL or DH
- Dietrich Department (all proposals should have a primary affiliation with one Dietrich department)
- Abstract (up to 200 words)

***Project Narrative (2 pages maximum)***: Summarize the proposed activities, including the motivation for the project and any relevant prior work, who will be involved in the work, and the projected timeline. Note: In the case of TEL proposals, PIs who are simultaneously submitting to the ProSEED/Simon Initiative Faculty Seed Grants program are encouraged to use the same project narrative for both programs, see Simon Initiative instructions [here](#) under "Project Narrative".

***Project Budget (1 page maximum)***: Identify specific budget items and amounts requested, with brief justifications as needed. Some specific details on project budgeting:

- There is no explicit restriction on the use of funds. Funds may be used to cover summer salary and course buyout. However, these expenses must be clearly justified and consistent with college and/or departmental policies.
- Overhead will not be charged. However, benefits do need to be accounted for if using funds to pay for salary.
- Use of support staff (budget up to 30 days). Technical Specialists in Humanities TEL and Digital Humanities Development are available to provide support for funded projects; this support can include consultation around learning/DH research and best practices, use of learning/DH data, and technology development. Indicate which kinds of work are most relevant to the proposed project, and for each, estimate the number of working days that the project will likely need. This is expected to be a rough estimate of your anticipated needs; details (e.g., in amount, nature and scope of work) will be adjusted before awards are finalized, based on a further discussion of project needs and the match to available personnel.

Note: It is the responsibility of the PI of funded proposals to ensure that all appropriate IRB approvals are in place prior to the initiation of the project.

Application materials should be submitted to Andy Norman ([anorman@cmu.edu](mailto:anorman@cmu.edu)) as a *single document* in PDF or Word format by **February 10, 2017**.

