



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SPRING QUARTER, 2016

DEADLINE: Monday May 16, 2016 at 11:59pm

APPLICATION: Application steps can be found at bestucla.squarespace.com

Statement of Purpose: The Bruin Excellence & Student Transformation Grant Program (BEST) supports students who are impacting the experience of marginalized and underrepresented students at UCLA. The program accomplishes this goal by funding transformative student-centered projects that improve campus climate.

History: BEST is the product of ongoing student, faculty, and staff activism and advocacy working to address inequalities at UCLA. A group of campus activists organized the Forum to Reclaim Diversity on April 23rd, 2015, linking conversations on changing campus climate, policies, and practices. Over 200 participants at the Forum amplified the need for transformative and sustainable programming informed by and engaging with UCLA communities. Following this event, the Forum organizers met with newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Jerry Kang, to discuss these campus concerns and to propose a new program building upon existing campus resources. BEST resulted from these conversations.

Project Scope: Program grants will fund the transformative efforts of various communities at UCLA to address marginalization and inequity. Projects should support and uplift communities and/or advocate for more equitable university policies and practices. The program will fund initiatives for the 2016-17 Academic Year.

Successful projects will exemplify the following:

- Engage marginalized UCLA communities
- Enhance, expand, or create resources/experiences for marginalized communities
- Promote sustainable or renewable equity-oriented leadership, programs, and/or resources
- Support personal and collective empowerment of project participants
- Advance personal and collective understanding of equity issues on campus and beyond
- Strengthen and create affirmational spaces for underserved communities at UCLA
- Foster solidarity among students, staff, and faculty of varied social identities, campus communities (e.g., orgs), and across disciplines and administrative units
- Action-oriented





Project applicants must:

- Demonstrate an ability (i.e., knowledge, skills, networks) to carry out the proposed project
- Participate in BEST Grant Program personal development and community activities (e.g., Summer training program, monthly potlucks, regular mentorship meetings)
- Support the assessment activities of the program team (e.g., surveys and interviews)
- Attend one of two **mandatory** proposal development workshop sessions on Tuesday April 19 (6-8pm) at the Covell Southbay room OR Wednesday April 20 (6-8pm) at the Carnesale Hermosa room
- Complete online application by Monday, May 16 (details provided at intro sessions)

Funding FAQ

How much funding can projects apply for?

The goal is to fund up to fourteen projects during the 2016-17 Academic Year. Projects may receive between \$2,000 and \$7,000. The amount of funding awarded to each project will correspond to the amount needed to ensure completion. In exceptional circumstances, projects of larger scope and potential for impact may receive more than \$7,000. Proposals must demonstrate how funds will be used to create a new project or expand and/or enhance a currently existing project with great potential for transformation.

What expenses does this funding source cover?

Projects funded through the grant program must follow established [UCLA policies](#). Generally speaking, the program can fund food, transportation, printing, and select rentals. The grant cannot cover salaries, equipment purchases, or personal airfare and accommodations.

What if a specific expense wasn't listed above?

Contact us and we will let you know if the grant is able to fund other items.

What if funding needs change over the course of the project?

Funding should be consistent with the expenses outlined in the project proposal. However, changes can be made following consultation with the BEST program team.

CONTACT: Please address any questions to Kareem Elzein (bestgrantsucla@gmail.com)

