

The IC² INSTITUTE

Call for Research Proposals on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Growth

The IC² Institute at The University of Texas at Austin anticipates providing financial support for a number of research projects in an ongoing effort to foster research by professors across all disciplines investigating key topics of interest to the Institute.

The IC² Institute is focused on the study and practice of innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. It conducts and puts it into practice research on these topics by providing education and training, building capacity and physical infrastructure, and actively assisting business growth locally and internationally through engagement and development. The Institute played a critical role in the creation of the “Austin Technopolis,” and insights from Austin’s transition into a technology center have been applied in active programs in Latin America, Asia, and Europe.

The IC² Institute is a leader in the theory and application of market economies and the role of technology innovation in building businesses and creating wealth. The primary purpose of this research call is to create collaborations between researchers at The University of Texas at Austin and researchers within the Institute, although proposals from non-University researchers will be considered. For context, within the Institute is the Austin Technology Incubator, which has a strong track record of assisting businesses since its inception in 1989. In addition, the Global Commercialization Group provides world-wide reach with multi-year commercialization programs in more than a dozen countries. Finally, the Bureau of Business Research conducts economic analyses for a variety of entities in Texas as well as internationally.

Research Topics

Institute resources will be used to support projects enhancing academic research collaborations involving the Institute.

A list of illustrative research topics is given below. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, and proposals submitted on any topic of interest to the IC² Institute and its programs are welcome.

1. **Ideation and Open Innovation:** How do individuals and groups generate new ideas? How can new and established companies and entities (especially educational institutions) promote innovation? In an ever-evolving marketplace, how can new ideas be evaluated and shepherded from concept to product? Is it possible to predict who will be a successful innovator or entrepreneur?
2. **Free Trade and Business:** What is the impact of free trade agreements on global and local economies?
3. **Business Networking Ecosystems:** How do entrepreneurs and innovators create a business ecosystem in a region or connect to an existing ecosystem to enhance the operations and increase the success potential of early-stage enterprises?

4. **Interpersonal Skills and Success:** How does the development of interpersonal skills influence success in the process of commercializing new products? How can those skills be assessed and improved? How do cultural factors influence the kinds of interpersonal skills required for entrepreneurial success?
5. **Entrepreneurs and Organization Science:** How do entrepreneurs create the internal structure of their organizations to allow them to compete nimbly in the global economy? Are there cultural differences in the organizational structures that succeed in entrepreneurial ventures? Do gender, race, and ethnicity influence entrepreneurial success and the structure of entrepreneurial ventures and, if so, how?
6. **History of Innovation and Creativity:** The Institute has a history of real-world experiments in wealth creation, business incubation, and technology transfer. Are there general principles and best practices that can be derived from this long history that may provide insights into new ventures?
7. **Incubation of Startup Companies:** There are many different models for incubating startup companies and many factors that contribute to the ultimate success of these companies. What factors influence the risk associated with startup companies, and how can traditional methods and new media be used to increase the probability of startup success and promote subsequent growth?
8. **Business Communications and Networks:** The Institute is interested in understanding the role of communication methods, persuasive approaches, and business development strategies that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of business deal discussions, especially as applied in international environments.

Application Procedure

Researchers interested in applying for financial support for a research project should start by reviewing the IC² Institute website (<http://www.ic2.utexas.edu/>) to learn more about the Institute or by contacting the IC² Institute Director, Dr. Robert A. Peterson (rap@austin.utexas.edu).

A maximum of \$25,000 will be awarded per accepted proposal for data collection, research assistance, graduate student support, and miscellaneous expenditures. Faculty or research scientist salary requests will not be funded. All funded research projects must be completed within one year of award acceptance. Students funded through these projects should expect to spend time at the Institute (space will be provided) working with Institute researchers and staff.

Proposals should be no longer than 5 pages (double-spaced) and should include enough detail for a group of domain experts to evaluate the nature of the work and the likely success of the project. Applicants should discuss how data obtained from their project could be used to support applications for funding from other agencies to continue the research as well as specify target journals for dissemination of research results.

An IC² Institute committee will evaluate all submitted proposals. The committee may contact applicants for more information about their projects. Proposals that include Institute research scientists as collaborators will be given funding priority. Proposal evaluations will be done on a rolling basis, and applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of the evaluation process within one month of application submission. Proposals should be submitted electronically as pdfs to Ms. Coral Franke (coral@ic2.utexas.edu).