

Penn India Research and Engagement Fund (Penn IREF) 2017 -18 Call for Proposals

The University of Pennsylvania has a longstanding history in India and strong engagement there through research and educational programs. Penn was one of the first American universities to teach Sanskrit in the 1880s and it established the first academic program dedicated to South Asian Studies in 1947, which was followed by the establishment of a Title VI resource center on South Asia in 1958. These early accomplishments were followed by other notable pioneering achievements in Penn's more recent history, including the establishment of the first academic research center devoted to contemporary India (CASI) in 1992, and a counterpart organization in India (UPIASI) in 1997. Van Pelt Library is also recognized for having one of the most extensive collections of resource materials on South Asia in the United States and Penn teaches a large number of Indian languages. Engagement with and research in/on India remains strong today, with more than 130 faculty members reporting over 200 faculty projects in or relating to India since 2012. Each School at Penn has some type of research project or activity underway with counterpart peers or institutions in India and Penn currently has ten active agreements with Indian institutions (see Appendix A).

The Penn India Research and Engagement Fund (Penn IREF) has been created to catalyze transformative research in and relating to India. The fund will seek to support a range of projects drawn from diverse academic disciplines, with the eventual goal of identifying synergies between research projects that could be brought together under unified faculty leadership to yield greater impact, produce new knowledge and insight, enhance educational and curricular initiatives, and increase substantive visibility.

Penn IREF Overview

The following is an overview of the funding priorities, eligibility, and criteria of the Penn India Research and Engagement Fund. All information regarding the Penn IREF as well as instructions to submit a proposal can be accessed on the Penn Global website (<https://global.upenn.edu/global-impact/india-research-and-engagement-fund>).

Purpose

The Penn India Research and Engagement Fund is a competitive grant program designed to stimulate and support activity in and on India. The primary goals of the fund are:

- To support outstanding research projects from across the University that are poised to make significant contributions to their field and catalyze transformative ideas in and across academic disciplines and schools.
- To increase the study and understanding of India at Penn and create opportunities for meaningful student engagement, including the development of innovative curricular activities, new courses, and short term study opportunities, such as Penn Global Seminars.
- To develop new, or strengthen existing, institutional and faculty-to-faculty relationships with Indian partners.

Budget and Award Sizes

Up to \$2 million will be awarded through the Fund over two years, with up to \$1 million being contributed by the Office of the Provost and up to \$1 million from matching internal or external funds.

The minimum award amount will be \$25,000; there is no maximum award size.

Fund Term & Technical Requirements

Fund terms will be up to three years. Beyond contributing to the goals of the fund, there are two technical requirements for all applicants:

- Matching funds from internal or external sources as described below.
- Robust collaboration with academic partners or other institutions in India.

Matching Funds

All awards will require matching funds of equal or greater amount to be contributed by the Principal Investigator's (PI's) school, center, or department or from an external source. As a general rule, the Provost's Office will provide a 50% match to project requests. However, the goal of the Fund is to stimulate transformative research, and proposers are welcome to submit proposals with alternative matching ratios or substantive in-kind match opportunities outlined. Matching funds do not have to be in-hand when proposals are submitted, but the proposal review process will take into consideration likelihood of securing match funds as evidenced by letters of intent or other documented expressions of support.

Types of Support

The Penn India Research and Engagement Fund will support a wide range of activities including:

- Research and academic collaborations
- Data collection and field/archival work
- Conferences, symposia, and workshops
- Professional consultation and collaboration
- Short-term or embedded courses that bring students to India
- In-country (India) travel for partners or collaborators
- Costs associated with Penn faculty doing extended research in India
- Hiring of overseas-based temporary employees essential to the project
- International airfare to/from India is allowed (up to five economy class round-trip tickets/annum)

What We Do Not Fund

The Provost's Office funds may not be used for:

- Faculty salary
- Operational support (space rental, equipment purchase)
- Payments to partner institutions for indirect costs or facilitation/hosting fees (actual cost reimbursement is allowed)

Additional information can be found in the FAQs and proposal submission guidelines, located on our website (<https://global.upenn.edu/global-impact/india-research-and-engagement-fund>).

Eligibility

All Penn faculty and senior administrators are eligible to apply. Proposals must be endorsed by the PI's School Dean and senior Financial Administrator. For proposals that are generated by more than one School or Center, the leadership of all institutions must endorse the proposal.

Timeline

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| Announcement of Fund and Call for Statements of Interest | October 13, 2017 |
| Information Sessions | November 6, 2017 December TBA |
| Proposals Due | January 19, 2018 |
| Awards Announced | March 2018 |

A Note about UPIASI

The University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI) in Delhi may be able to provide research guidance and logistical support to your project. Based at the Habitat Centre, UPIASI has access to meeting and conference facilities as well as hotel rooms that can be reserved for Penn activities. More information about UPIASI can be found at <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/upiasi/welcome>. Specific inquiries about types of support should be sent to **Tishya Sethi, UPIASI Operations Manager**, at tishya@upiasi.org.

A Note about Existing Collaborations with Indian Institutions

The University of Pennsylvania maintains an on-going record of international agreements generated across campus. Prospective Penn IREF applicants may wish to explore potential areas for collaboration with Indian institutions who have already established a relationship with Penn. Following is a list of Indian institutions with whom Penn has an agreement.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
- Ashoka University
- Christian Medical College
- IKP Centre for Technologies in Public Health (ICTPH)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Please note that this list may not capture *all* active partnerships between Penn Schools and Indian institutions. Should you wish to learn more about any of these partnerships, please contact Penn Global at global@exchange.upenn.edu.

Proposal Instructions

All applicants must complete the [proposal form template](#). A fully completed form, including all signatures, should be at the front of the application. The form is inclusive of the following elements:

- Project Information
- Previous Applications
- Abstract
- Collaborations (with key partners at Penn, in India, and elsewhere)
- Timeline
- Budget Outline and Narrative*
- Conflict of Interest Statement
- Signatures**

**Budget Outline and Narrative*

In addition, please briefly describe how funds will be allocated and how the funds will allow you to succeed in achieving your objectives. Applicant must indicate whether he or she has secured funds from other sources, for instance, from their School, other internal departments and offices, or from external organizations. In the budget narrative, please indicate the source and amount of the external funds. Upon acceptance of proposal, we will require a submission of a detailed budget using our established budget format.

***Signatures.*

Deans, department chairs (if applicable), and a senior business administrator of your school/center must sign the Penn IREF proposal form.

Narrative

The narrative is limited to **eight pages** and should include the following elements:

- Background/Statement of Need
- Project Design and Methodology
- Key Objectives and Outcomes
- Potential Impact
- Key Activities
- Outputs and Sustainability

Biographical Sketches

Biosketches for all key personnel, including faculty and collaborators, should be included in the application.

Submission Guidelines

Please ensure that all items listed in the checklist are completed and submitted with your application. Failure to provide all materials at the time of submission will delay the review process and may jeopardize the applicant's chance of receiving funds.

A completed application should be submitted as a PDF file via email to the Global Engagement account at global@exchange.upenn.edu. The name of the PDF document and the excel file must begin with the last name of the proposed principal investigator. The final and complete application must be received by **5:00 pm EST on January 19, 2018**.

Penn IREF Checklist

- ✓ Penn IREF Proposal Form (including budget outline, budget narrative, and all signatures)
- ✓ Narrative
- ✓ Biographical Sketches

Questions

Any questions regarding the Penn India Research and Engagement Fund can be directed to global@exchange.upenn.edu.