



## **Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette France-UT Endowed Excellence Fund Request for Proposals**

*2019-2020 Theme: Climate Change/Sustainability/Biodiversity/Energy Transition*

Deadline for Submission: Friday, March 29, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

### **Purpose**

Established as a partnership with the Embassy of France in the United States, The France-UT Endowed Excellence Fund program supports scholarly collaborations in all disciplines between The University of Texas at Austin and institutions of higher learning in France. The Fund considers projects jointly submitted by a tenured or tenure-track professor or full-time permanent researcher at UT Austin and a professor or associate professor or permanent researcher at a public research institution or institution of higher learning in France.

Faculty and researchers may apply for one of six awards of up to \$10,000 in seed funding for bi-national collaborations in all fields of study (Applied Sciences, Engineering, Exact Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences) as well as Professional Schools.

### **Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette France-UT Endowed Excellence Fund (CDM)**

The newly established endowment fund has a two-fold mission: to support research collaborations between faculty at UT Austin and institutions in France and to facilitate awareness and connections across the UT Austin community for French culture, workforce and education.

The France-UT endowment has been named in honor of Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette. Dr. DeWitt-Morette's storied career, her efforts to improve global relations for the science community, and her reputation as a determined innovator embody the spirit of the Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette France-UT Endowed Excellence Fund. This endowment solidifies the commitment between France and The University of Texas at Austin to support faculty and students who exemplify some of Dr. DeWitt-Morette's finest qualities: creativity, determination, passion, and vision. These individual qualities, supported by the rich cultural heritage of innovation and the resources provided by the endowment, will lead to generations of joint discoveries and deeper ties between the people of France and Texas.

## **2019-2020 Theme: Climate Change/Sustainability/Biodiversity/ Energy Transition**

In the spirit of France's Make our Planet Great Again initiative and UT's Grand Challenge Planet Texas 2050, all proposals submitted to this program for 2019-2020 must fall under the broad heading of climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, and/or energy transition. Examples include the following topics although are not limited to these topics.

- Governing and managing sustainable development locally and globally.
- Developing, implementing and promoting sustainable technologies.
- Knowledge and monitoring of the physical, chemical, biological, ecological and social mechanisms that underpin global and regional environmental changes, including an understanding of how these mechanisms have interacted in the past and how they are likely to evolve in the future.
- How anthropogenic pressures such as climate change, pollution, landscape fragmentation or introduction of invasive species affect the biodiversity and what are the ecological, economic or societal impacts?
- Sustainable development challenges in the context of global and climate changes.
- Meeting basic needs for a growing human population in a stressed ecosystem.
- How societies may address global environmental and sustainability challenges.
- The transition from fossil fuels towards innovative zero carbon energy sources.
- Systemic approach of the energy transition including economic, ecologic, and social challenges, and the development and analysis of prospective scenarios.
- Improvement of modeling activities of complex Earth systems, data assimilation and predictability.
- Exploring, understanding and evaluating transformation pathways and life cycle issues.
- Economically, environmentally and socially viable production and bioproduction of bio-sourced raw materials.
- Issues related to human health and well-being, demography, economic strategies and their associations with sustainable production and consumption, urbanization, new technologies and processes, energy and governance for global sustainability and climate change induced stress.
- Concepts associated to the flexibility of population/economic needs and consumption habits in the perspective of an accelerated energy transition.

### **Eligibility**

- This opportunity is open to all tenured and tenure-track faculty and permanent researchers from any discipline. Must have UT PI status.
- UT PI must collaborate with a professor, associate professor, or permanent researcher at a public research institution or institution of higher learning in France.
- Each UT PI may submit a maximum of one application per funding round.

### **Eligible Activities**

The UT – France endowment fund aims to support joint research activities. Activities do not need to take place in the United States or France, but should intersect with US/French and

US/French-related materials, entities and individuals and foster research and academic cooperation between The University of Texas at Austin and France

### **Ineligible Activities**

- Faculty development – activities such as learning a new technique, language, methodology or completing a thesis or dissertation.
- Public service and consulting.
- Departmental curriculum development, such as the preparation of curriculum materials, curriculum modifications, and student interest surveys.

### **Timeline**

Announce Call for Proposals to UT Professors	February 15, 2019
Deadline for Proposal Submission	Friday, March 29, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
Proposal Review	April 2019
Announce Winners for 2019-2020 Awards	Mid-late May 2019
Grantee Period of Performance	September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

### **Proposal process**

Proposals due on-line via [InfoReady Review](#) by **Friday, March 29, 2019**. Proposals must be submitted by the UT Principal Investigator.

**Proposal Documents Required** – Please submit these materials in the following order as a single .pdf document:

- Non-technical project abstract
  - 200-words maximum.
    - Please write for a general audience. Your application for funding will be reviewed by academics who work across a very broad range of disciplines, including the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and medicine.
    - Clearly identify the project's significance
    - Avoid disciplinary jargon
- Full Project Summary
  - 5-pages maximum
- Detailed budget
  - One-page maximum plus a one page budget justification
  - The maximum grant amount is \$10,000.
  - Include, and clearly identify, all additional sources of funding.
- Curriculum Vitae for both UT and French PIs in outline form (Each C.V. two pages or less), listing no more than five recent publications relevant to the proposed project.
- Note: Patentable ideas, copyrightable software, or any confidential information, disclosure of which may ham the proposer, should not generally be included in proposals. If such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project, it must be clearly marked in the

proposal and appropriately labeled with a legend such as, “The following is proprietary or confidential information that (name of PI) requests to be released only to the review committee for the sole purpose of review and evaluation.

## **Budget**

### *Allowable Costs*

- Short term travel and meeting costs to facilitate international projects and collaboration.
- Research or project associated travel
- Research supplies and materials
- GRA or consultant salaries
- Workshop/symposia-related costs, such as the following:
  - Space/facility rental
  - Travel and lodging
  - Supplies
  - Meals
  - Equipment rentals
- Publication expenses

### *Unallowable Costs*

- To pay for class release.
- To cover UT or French PI salaries.
- To purchase equipment except for project-specific supplies that will be consumed over the course of the project.
- To pay student or postdoc salaries.
- To cover everyday living expenses.

## **Proposal Review**

### *Criteria*

The projects will be evaluated by both US and French experts and will be considered by an Executive Committee comprised of an equal number of representatives from UT Austin and from France. All applicants will be judged on the following criteria:

- To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- How well qualified are the PIs, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
- To what extent does the project align with the Endowment’s mission?
- To what extent does the project demonstrate complementarity and a balanced exchange between participating PIs/teams?
- To what extent does the project demonstrate the potential for continued collaboration between the UT and French PIs in the medium and long term?

- To what extent does the project involve undergraduate and/or graduate students in a meaningful way?

### *Review Process*

Proposals will be scored by both UT and French experts using a modified five-point scale. Scoring is based a standard four-point scale with the addition of a fifth point available to indicate those proposals that are truly special.

- Outstanding (Point value: 5): Vitaly important project undertaken by qualified investigators who can be expected to make substantial progress and has potential for generating activities consistent with the highest standards of the discipline. This rating should be reserved only for truly excellent proposals, but should be used when warranted. There are expected to be very few 5's.
- Excellent (Point Value: 4): Proposal considered superior, both for the intrinsic merit of the project and the ability of the investigator. Should be supported.
- Very Good (Point Value 3): Proposal considered superior, both for the intrinsic merit of the project and the ability of the investigator. Should be fully or partially supported with recommendation for scope or budgetary adjustment.
- Good (Point Value: 2): Worthwhile project by a competent investigator, but routine in nature. May be supported if funds are available.
- Fair (Point Value: 1): Proposal has serious deficiencies that decrease the probability of successful completion. Might merit consideration in future competitions if resubmitted with major changes.
- Poor (Point Value 0): Clearly not deserving of support or is written in language that prohibits adequate merit evaluation by reviewers.

Applications with the highest average point value will face final review, selection, and funding by the Executive Committee of the Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette France-UT Endowed Excellence Fund

### **Contact Information**

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