d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education
2019-2020 Application Guidelines

Overview

The Alex and Brit d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education is soliciting proposals from MIT faculty members for projects that strengthen undergraduate education and enrich the experiences of our undergraduates. Proposals that make use of innovative, active, and/or inclusive pedagogies to improve student learning and the student experience are encouraged, as are projects that transcend specific departmental curricula, and/or make use of online technology.

Proposals can be focused at any level of undergraduate education, and priority will be given to projects that:

- Improve the first-year academic experience, including enhancing the General Institute Requirements (GIRs) and increasing inspiring opportunities to enable students to explore different fields of knowledge, academic departments, and possible future careers.

- Advance the recommendations related to undergraduate academic offerings within the Schwarzman College of Computing.

- Create subjects in the humanities, arts, and social sciences that explore a set of enduring questions, concepts, ideas, or values.

Information on current and previously funded projects is available here.

Timeline

- Proposals are due by **Friday, September 27, 2019** to darbeloff-fund@mit.edu.
- Awards will be announced in late November.

Funding guidelines

- The d'Arbeloff resources are intended primarily for faculty-led initiatives, with the understanding that such initiatives may also involve non-faculty participants.

- Grants are available for use from January 2020 through June 2021. Recipients will be required to submit a final report on their project at the end of their funding period, and relevant report details will be made available to the MIT community.

- Grants are typically no more than $50,000. Larger grants will be considered for special projects as will additional years of funding, but grants will be made on a year-by-year basis. Cost sharing is encouraged and looked favorably upon by the selection committee, and they expect to see some form of cost-sharing for the project.

- Funding requests may include faculty and TA summer salary and EB, UROPs, materials and books, and some equipment. Funding is *not* typically approved for overhead, teaching release, conference expenses or travel, graduate student tuition, honoraria, guest travel or lodging, or RA positions. Awards are fund fee exempt.
- The selection committee places a high value on assessment of educational innovations, and a select subset of proposals may be particularly well-suited for rigorous, educational research studies. In these cases, the committee may request that PIs work with assessment and evaluation experts in the Teaching + Learning

Laboratory (T+LL) to develop and implement a robust educational research study. T+LL additionally offers <u>resources</u> and <u>individual consultations</u> to help you develop your own plan.

- Participation in projects funded by these awards, whether participation is for compensation or as a volunteer, qualifies as "significant use" of MIT Administered Resources under MIT Policies and Procedures. In accordance with the treatment of "significant use," ownership of intellectual property, including copyrights in instructional materials and curriculum, will vest with MIT.

How to apply

A complete application includes:

1. A **cover sheet** (form available <u>here</u>).

2. A **proposal narrative** of 3-6 pages that includes:
   a. A detailed description of the project including planned activities and a timeline.
   b. A statement about the educational need your project will address with answers to the following questions:
      - How will the project enhance your teaching?
      - How will it improve the students' experiences in the classroom?
      - What is the potential impact of the project at MIT? Estimate number of students served now and in the future.
   c. Description of resources and staffing needed, noting interactions among faculty across departments or schools and/or among faculty and other members of the extended MIT community, such as alumni/ae, close industrial partners, research scientists, and partners at other institutions.
   d. A description of how you plan to reflect upon the efficacy of your educational innovation. (See funding guidelines above.)
   e. A summary of the outcomes of any previous projects supported by the d'Arbeloff Fund, noting unspent funds from those projects.
   f. For projects that will take longer than the standard period, please contact <u>darbeloff-fund@mit.edu</u> for more information. Commitments are made on a year-by-year basis.

3. A **project budget** (template available <u>here</u>) that includes:
   a. a breakdown of costs for resources and staffing needed,
   b. other funding sources such as support from the department or school (the selection committee looks favorably upon projects that utilize cost-sharing), and
   c. a narrative explaining your project costs.

4. **Letter(s)** from the appropriate department, program, or section head indicating their support, and addressing cost-sharing and plans to sustain the project at the end of the funding period.

Submit your complete proposal by **Friday, September 27, 2019** to <u>darbeloff-fund@mit.edu</u>.

For more information

Email: <u>darbeloff-fund@mit.edu</u>
Call: Assistant Dean Genevre Filiault (617) 253-5629
Visit: <u>https://registrar.mit.edu/darbeloff</u>