2016 DLI Call for Grant Proposals: Focus Areas & Submission Guidelines

Focus Areas

The Digital Learning Initiative is accepting grant proposals until January 20th, 2017 for implementation in the Summer and Fall of 2017. This year, we are particularly interested in proposals focusing on the following areas:

Focus Area 1: Technology-mediated projects that facilitate connections between faculty/student teams and outside organizations (corporations, public agencies, etc.) for the purpose of project-based, experiential and work-integrated learning and internships that are embedded in courses and programs of study.

Focus Area 2: Technology-mediated projects (such as ones involving predictive analytics, mentoring tools or platforms, academic alert/nudge systems etc.) that aim to improve the quality of academic, career and life mentoring/advising we offer to our students.

Focus Area 3: Innovative approaches to developing capabilities for serving “lifelong learners.” This includes (but is not limited to) ideas for professional courses, micro-credentials, lifelong learning portals, and developing new/better ways to keep our alumni connected to BU.

Focus Area 4: Innovative approaches to adaptive learning and/or differentiated instruction. These are projects which, in the context of sound pedagogy, strive to individualize and personalize learning based on each student’s unique needs, current understandings and interests.

Focus Area 5: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with a preference for courses that showcase unique aspects of Boston University and can contribute to the University’s global reputation; XSeries (sequences of related courses or modules that lead to an overarching achievement); and MicroMasters.

Focus Area 6: Technology-mediated projects that aim to improve the quality of our students’ global experience.
Submission Guidelines

- Concept Proposals should be no more than 2 pages.
- Proposals from individuals as well as entire departments/schools are welcome.
- Each proposal can be co-authored by several BU faculty or staff members but should designate a single corresponding author.
- Proposals should provide the following information:
  - A description of the proposed course/idea, including the problem the project is attempting to solve or spark it is intending to ignite.
  - A list of similar existing efforts upon which this project is attempting to improve or the unique contribution it attempts to offer.
  - The strategic value the project offers to Boston University.
  - The set of people that constitute the project/course team (including any assistants, if known).
  - Dates of project team availability for production and initial delivery (including a list of any other work commitments during those dates); please expect that any project, including a MOOC, could consume a substantial amount of time, often 3-6 months.
  - A plan for assessing how successful you’ve been in implementing your idea, if funded.
- Proposals for MOOCs should additionally include
  - a course syllabus, including a draft week-by-week course outline
  - estimated demand/audience for the course

Criteria for Selection

- **Scope**: Proposed project must be responsive to at least one of the focus areas of the DLI seed program.
- **Sustainability**: Proposed project should have the potential to scale up and be used repeatedly and preferably by more than a single faculty member.
- **Collaboration**: Preference will be given to group projects that involve more than a single faculty member or those that aim to impact more than a single course.
- **Student Participation**: Preference will be given to projects that engage students not only to develop/assess technology, but also to gain professional experience, from PhD students headed for academic careers to undergraduates headed for teaching careers.
- **Impact**: Preference will be given to projects that have the potential of creating a strategic advantage for BU and enhance the distinctive value of a BU education.
- **Significance**: Project should have significant pedagogical value for our students and should include input from students.
- **Support**: Project must be strongly endorsed by participating academic unit(s), and all requisite technical and administrative support must be identified and deemed feasible.