Request for Proposals
For the Spring 2005 and Fiscal Year 2005/2006
Deadline: Throughout FY2004/2005

Note Key Changes to CGC Grants Process This Year (see below)

The Center on Global Change (CGC) is soliciting proposals from Duke faculty for activities that will establish new and innovative faculty collaborations and graduate training across disciplines in the area of global change science. Such collaborations and graduate training may be within the Duke community, or may involve faculty and research scientists from other universities and research institutions. Proposals can include working groups, workshops and symposia, support for visiting scholars, support for sabbatical faculty, or other activities.

Two changes to the CGC grants process have been instituted this year. First, rather than soliciting proposals only once (in the fall) for projects to begin in the following fiscal year, the CGC has instituted a rolling proposal and project implementation process. Proposals are welcomed throughout this fiscal year, and projects may begin anytime during the Spring 2005 term or FY2005/2006. Second, the CGC has initiated a new area of focus for its research and education activities: biogenic carbon sequestration and its full environmental consequences. This research area encompasses:

1) the study of the feasibility of terrestrial and oceanic carbon sequestration mechanisms (e.g., tree planting, ocean fertilization),
2) research to predict and monitor carbon flux under different management schemes (e.g., field sensor development, model development), and
3) analysis of the full suite of environmental changes accompanying a given measure (e.g., changes in water and non-CO₂ trace gas fluxes due to terrestrial sequestration measures).

The CGC will continue to solicit and fund proposals in all areas of global change science.

Proposed projects should be in the $20,000-$50,000 range. The CGC anticipates funding two to five projects this year.

Working groups

A working group is an interdisciplinary collaboration that includes faculty, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students. Working groups convene at the Center to develop new science initiatives that involve synthesis of existing knowledge, to develop and implement novel research programs, and to organize proposals that will ensure continuing support. Working groups will be expected to focus on research activities that do not currently exist and that would be difficult to develop under traditional funding mechanisms (e.g., federal agencies). The Center will entertain a broad range of synthetic activities and approaches and will especially focus on topics that are new, timely, and likely to have impact on interdisciplinary research and graduate training at Duke University; however, priority will be given to activities focused on biogenic carbon sequestration. It is expected that working group activities will culminate in one or more grant proposals to outside funding organizations, and that these proposals will be run through the Center. The Center will provide administrative, financial, and technical support to the proposal.
preparation and submission process, and well as administrative, logistics, and financial management support once an award is made.

Working groups can have lifetimes lasting between a semester and several years, and are expected to reside primarily at the Center for at least one semester. Working groups spanning more than a semester might occupy space at the Center periodically, beginning, for example, with a semester of intensive interaction and with subsequent meetings for synthesis.

Working groups will include Duke faculty and graduate students, and can additionally include visiting faculty and research scientists, and post docs. It is expected that working groups will include from three to six faculty members who collectively represent several disciplines. The Center will provide office space, computers, clerical and computer support, and meeting rooms. Funds may be sought for support of a post doc in residence at the Center, with regular faculty involvement, or of a visiting faculty or research scientist. Undergraduate support is also possible as long as this activity has an education focus.

Other interdisciplinary activities

The Center will entertain proposals for workshops, symposia, and other novel activities that focus on global change science. Such activities might involve the Center staff for coordination, logistics, and funding, and might take place at the Center. They might span several days or involve several intensive efforts over a period of a year. Funds may include participation by visiting scholars.

Graduate training

Working groups will be encouraged to provide graduate courses that can be taken for credit. These courses will be flexible in format and engage graduate students from several departments. Courses should complement working group goals while broadening the opportunities for multidisciplinary training.

The proposal

Proposals should be approximately 3-5 pages in length (not including resumes) and include the sections outlined below.

A. Statement of need  
B. Objectives  
C. Timeline  
D. Anticipated products, including publications and proposals  
E. Other activities, including courses, meetings, outreach, partnerships  
F. Membership, including organizer, other faculty, postdocs, grad students  
G. References  
H. Budget  
I. Resumes of Investigators
Proposal review

Proposals will be ranked based on peer review by an *ad hoc* panel composed of faculty and administrators who are not in the pool of applicants.

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:
- Alignment with the Center’s global change mission and carbon sequestration focus
- Contribution to interdisciplinarity at Duke
- Contribution to graduate education
- Potential for generating successful proposals to external sources of funding
- Potential for generating notable publications
- Potential for long-term sustained collaboration

Submission

Please send electronic versions to: rutchick@duke.edu

Contacts

Prior to proposal submission, principal investigators may contact Rob Jackson (CGC Faculty Director) or Barbara Braatz (CGC Executive Director) for feedback on potential proposals:

Rob Jackson: jackson@duke.edu or 660-7408
Barbara Braatz: braatz@duke.edu or 681-7181