

The Jefferson Trust  
Grant Proposal Evaluation Guidelines

**The *Vision* of the Jefferson Trust**

To promote excellence throughout the University of Virginia by providing catalytic support to the University community for initiatives in pursuit of Jeffersonian ideals.

**The *Mission* of the Jefferson Trust**

The Jefferson Trust provides discretionary funding for trustee-selected projects that enhance the University of Virginia as a preeminent global institution of higher learning. The Trustees solicit and evaluate applications, and provide grants and stewardship towards the execution of stated project goals. The Trust measures the success of a grant by its ability to encourage creativity, innovation and leadership, and ultimately by whether it enhances the University and/or the student experience.

**The Jefferson Trust seeks proposals that meet the following guidelines:**

1. Enhances the University and/or the student experience
  - a. University – in process or in reputation
  - b. Student experience – generally considered by breadth of student impact
  - c. Students are defined as current or future University students enrolled in degree-related programs; no distinction between undergraduate and graduate students.
2. Encourages creativity, innovation and leadership
3. Submissions may come from faculty, administrators, University-related organizations, and students
4. Preference for “seed funding” or “exceptional one-offs” over sustaining an already-ongoing effort
  - a. Seed funding – Projects requiring early-stage or start-up funding
  - b. Exceptional one-offs – Symposia or other one-time events with potential for large or long-term impact
5. Multi-year timelines are acceptable, if full program is well-defined. Timeline should not exceed 3 years.
6. “Bricks and Mortar” proposals must demonstrate objectives beyond standard construction. No ‘capital improvements.’
7. Student initiated and/or led initiatives must have clear leadership transition plans in place
8. Travel – in context of impact to University/students:
  - a. More inclined to cover costs of bringing experts to UVA where they can impact a large number of students/portion of the University
  - b. Less inclined to cover costs of sending a few individuals to another location for any reason
9. Budgets:
  - a. Compensation/wages for workers (whether student, grad students, or faculty) are acceptable when needed to carry out the program. (Coordinators, faculty release, research leads, or student workers)
  - b. Will not merely fund salaries – in cases where existing positions have been cut in UVA budgeting process – or any other item that is part of the University budget process
10. Broad Impact:
  - a. The Trust seeks to have an impact in all areas of the University; therefore we take into consideration grant patterns from recent years to ensure equitable distribution across schools/areas
  - b. The Trust seeks a balance of international, national, state, local and UVA community impact projects within the confines of proposals submitted. However, the primary beneficiaries of these projects must be UVA-related rather than sole benefit to an outside entity or population.