

Call for Applications: TRAVel for CollaborativE Research (TRACER) Grant

Purpose

[TRACER](#) grants are intended for eligible Purdue Engineering doctoral students/postdocs with a promising research trajectory and interest in securing faculty positions at top Universities. The grant facilitates new research collaborations with world-leading experts at top institutions, thus broadening the grantee's mentor/peer network for their future faculty career. The expectation is that TRACER collaboration will lead to joint publications.

Application Deadline: October 1, 2024, for travel from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Award amount and duration: Up to \$7,500 can be requested on a reimbursement basis. Eligible expenses include reasonable transportation, lodging, per diem (only while traveling to/from the host lab and not during the lab stay), etc. Funds cannot be used for student stipends or salary. These funds cannot be used for research expenses, which are expected to be covered by home and/or host labs.

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in an Engineering PhD program or employed as a postdoctoral researcher in the College of Engineering. Graduate student applicants must have passed their preliminary exam or have their preliminary exam scheduled so that it will be completed before traveling for this collaboration.

Criteria:

1. Evidence of promising research trajectory and motivation for faculty career as judged by the graduate student's/postdoc's application essay, CV (including a list of all published/submitted articles and conference papers), and letters of support.
2. Strengthening a new collaboration: Purdue and external PIs should not have joint funding or have published together in the previous five years.
3. Collaborative excellence: The extent to which the collaboration, if successful, will help grantee in their future faculty career at a top institution.

Submission materials:

Please combine the following documents into **one** .pdf file:

- TRACER Application form (next page)
- One-page statement describing (a) their research success thus far and career objectives and (b) the potential for collaborative excellence (i.e., include briefly what the collaboration will be about, excellence of collaborator's group, synergy or complementarity with current research).
- Letter from current Purdue research advisor(s) providing (a) evidence of why they think this PhD student/postdoc has a strong future potential to become a successful faculty at a top Engineering College/University, (b) describing why the collaboration if successful will help the grantee secure future faculty careers at top institutions, and (c) confirming that the collaboration with the external mentor is a **new** collaboration (see definition within *Criteria* section above).
- Letter from hosting collaborator, including their (a) interest in the collaboration and (b) commitment to mentoring the student/postdoc toward future faculty careers.

- Current curriculum vitae (CV) – not to exceed 3 pages
- One-page budget showing expected travel and lodging expenditures, other sources of revenue (including fellowship, RA, or other employment, other travel grants, etc.), commitments (if any) from the partnering lab, and the requested travel grant amount.

Email the completed form to engrgrad@purdue.edu with the subject line “TRACER Collaborative Travel Request.”

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Application Cover Page

Applicants must be traveling to another laboratory outside of Purdue University for their research collaboration.

IMPORTANT: All fields need to be completed.

After this cover page, be sure to include ALL required documents, combine them into one .pdf, and submit by the deadline. Email the SINGLE PDF attachment to engrgrad@purdue.edu.

Student's Full Name:

Student's Purdue E-Mail Address:

I am a:

Graduate Student

Postdoctoral Researcher

Advisor's Full Name:

Advisor's Purdue E-Mail Address:

Engineering School:

Collaborator's Full Name:

Collaborator's Lab Location:

Anticipated Dates of Collaboration Experience: _____ to _____

Award Amount Requested: _____

(Details must be in the attached budget.)

For Graduate Student Applicants:

Date of Preliminary Examination: ___ / ___ / _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: ___ / _____

Are you currently on an RA?

If yes, supervisor:

Will this RA continue while you travel for your collaborative research?