Request for Grant Proposals: Call for New Course Development

Due Date: June 25, 2020 at 4:00PM

Columbia University
The Columbia-IBM Center for Blockchain and Data Transparency requests grant proposals for new courses across Columbia University.

Courses related to data transparency or blockchain technology, broadly defined (including security, privacy, policy, business, health, finance, law, social, and other application domains)

RFP Issue Date: June 1, 2020
RFP Due Date: June 25, 2020 4PM
Award Notification: July 22, 2021

Send questions and completed application to CU-IBM-SeedFund@columbia.edu

The Columbia-IBM Center for Blockchain and Data Transparency (the “Center”) is a university-wide multidisciplinary program that provides thought leadership on education and research related to blockchain and data transparency. The Center’s three tracks (education, research and innovation) include curriculum development by Columbia faculty focused on the rapid and expanding fields of blockchain and data transparency. The Center Steering Committee will review applications for funding and make a selection based on a number of criteria, including but not limited to quality and pertinence of the proposal.

The program will award grants for the development of new courses around the technical, regulatory, legal, policy, or business issues pertaining to blockchain and data transparency, broadly defined. Example areas include technological advances in secure, private, and transparent data sharing and joint computation across distributed and decentralized architectures (e.g., homomorphic encryption, secure multi-party computation, differential privacy, secure hardware, data flow, and blockchain technologies); business and economic questions arising with these technological capabilities, in domains such as supply-chain management and food security, healthcare, finance, energy, media and entertainment; legal, policy, and societal implications to these domains and to national security, personal privacy and civil liberty. Example curricula offerings might include classes, workshops, studios, out-of-semester offerings and “boot-camps.” Instructors may be full-time officers of instruction, professors of practice, lecturers within discipline and/or adjunct professors. Student cohorts can be undergraduate students, PhD students or graduate students undergoing professional training. Grant proposals are welcome from all Schools at Columbia University. All developed material should be integrated into Columbia’s instructional offerings.

Eligibility

Successful proposals will involve:

(i) a course instructor or candidate that meets an eligible officer of instruction appointment at Columbia University,
(ii) course work broadly related to data transparency and/or blockchain and a detailed syllabus
(iii) programs that are currently not being met by existing curricula offerings,
(iv) a letter of support by the Dean(s) of the School(s) and Chair(s) of the Department(s) where the proposed course is to be introduced (for example as an elective within a degree program). Where necessary, it is expected that the endorsed course proposal must adhere to the School's Committee of Instruction (COI) before the new course may be offered. This approval, when needed, should be included in the proposal timeline.

If the proposal is funded, proper course work and academic approvals must be obtained from all appropriate committees and academic offices.
Applications must be submitted by an instructor, who must have the authority to assume scholarly, administrative, and financial responsibility for their individual award. Those eligible to apply are: full-time officers of instruction, professors of practice, lecturers within discipline and/or adjunct professors of Columbia University. At least one member of the instructional team must be appointed full-time. All full-time members on the team must hold primary appointments at Columbia University.

It is anticipated that on the order of 2 or more courses will be funded for this competition, based upon quality and overall budget availability, and that another competition will be announced during the academic year 2021/2022. As part of the program all Awardees will be expected to attend about two meetings per semester to discuss their progress and experience, share the lessons they have learned to provide students with a well-rounded, complementary set of skills, equipping them to enter our 21st century, global, dynamic and digital marketplaces.

**Funding**

All awards will be made on a competitive basis for the development of a course. The Center expects to fund each course in the amount of approximately $40,000. Funding may be used to support the video production of an existing or new course.

Example uses of award funding might be summer salary support, support for student assistants and/or on-line curricula components, curriculum development, the cost of materials, supplies and other items, etc. Funding may also be used to offset required teaching obligations to enable the development and teaching of new courses. Applicants must provide a budget and justification as part of their application to the program. Proposals from more than two instructors are welcome if a justification for co-teaching is provided.

**Application requirements**

To be considered for this competition, applications to the Center call for proposals must be received by **June 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM**. We will not accept incomplete or late applications. We anticipate award announcements to be made by July 22, 2021.

In developing proposals and budgets, applicants are required to consult with their Dean(s), Chair(s), or another appropriate representative of their School or their Department.

All the software and copyrightable material created in the performance of the projects funded by the Center must be made publicly available, either by publication or by open source license or open copyright license. Unless otherwise agreed upon, Columbia will grant a license for patents (if any) filed for inventions developed under support of this seed funding to IBM which will be worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, and non-transferable.

A completed application must include **(in this order):**

- A cover page (a cover sheet is included at the end of this RFP).
- Executive Summary (not to exceed 300 words).
- Budget documents:
  - Detailed budget and narrative (a budget sheet is included at the end of this RFP). Budget items should be listed by expense category (e.g., travel, materials production).
- Proposal (not to exceed 5 pages) describing:
  - the title of the course;
  - the need for the education proposed;
  - a description of the materials to be developed to fulfill that need;
  - the target audience, number of anticipated students that will be impacted, how students might be selected for participation if offering is outside of normal curricula (e.g., bootcamps);
- a description of how the materials are to be delivered (course, workshop, on-line, etc.) and what place they will occupy in Columbia’s instructional offerings;
- a description of the roles of each instructor;
- an implementation time-line;
- evaluation criteria and proposed evaluation methodology for understanding the effectiveness of the new materials in meeting their intended instructional goals;
- any other information that supports the proposal (including literature cited, etc.)

- Letters of support (both required):
  - from Dean(s) of the School(s) where the proposed course is to be introduced;
  - from Department Chair(s) where the proposed course is to be introduced.

Please use a reasonable sized font (11 point or larger) and margin widths (no less than one inch).

Grant proposals Review
Proposals will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee consisting of researchers drawn from relevant Departments and Schools across Columbia University, as well as from IBM. The final selection will be done by the Center Steering Committee. Example evaluation criteria include:

- The intellectual rigor and clarity of expression for the proposed course;
- The quality and feasibility of the budget for the proposed course development and teaching;
- The potential for broader impact across multiple domains at Columbia beyond course attendees.

Funding Requirements
Awardees receiving awards will be expected to provide full accountability and reporting of funds spent. Awardees are expected to start teaching the course within 3 semesters of the award date. Awardees will also commit to teaching the course at least twice over the three years after receiving funding. Unspent funds must be returned after 3 years.

In addition, award recipients will provide progress updates and agree to meet to discuss as a group their progress and experience, share lessons learned as well as ideas that might help ensure that all Columbia University students receive excellent education and training.

Submission
Applicants are required to submit the entire application (as one PDF file, in the order of the application requirements) via email to CU-IBM-SeedFund@columbia.edu by June 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For further information related to this RFP, please contact: CU-IBM-SeedFund@columbia.edu
### Application Cover Page

**Project | Course Title:**

**Contact Information (Principle Investigators/Instructors)**

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(If additional contacts are needed, please check here,________, and provide supplemental listing before CV’s.)

**Executive Summary | 300 words or less**

- Please email the required documents in this order, in a single file, to jr2180@columbia.edu by the stated deadline.

**Funding Amount Requested:**

| Maximum Request: $40,000.00 |

**Proposal Check-List**

- [ ] Application Cover Page
- [ ] Executive Summary
- [ ] Budget, Narrative & Justification
- [ ] Proposal
- Letters of Support
  - [ ] Dean(s) (Required)
  - [ ] Department Chair(s) (or appropriate representative)
- [ ] Bio Sketches for Each Instructor
**Budget Request**

### Project | Course Title:

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*NOTE: You're welcome to use your own template in excel, however, please ensure to include relevant budget categories.*

**Budget Narrative & Justification:**

*Please provide a short description and justification of how funds received from the Columbia-IBM Center for Blockchain and Data Transparency will be used. It is required that all funds be expended within a 3-year period from award date.*