



UC SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

SPRINGBOARD

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANTS
FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

RELEASE VERSION 1.1

APRIL 1, 2019

APRIL 2019 COMPETITION

IATC | INDUSTRY ALLIANCES &
TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

PURPOSE

Springboard is a funding program intended to assist promising UCSC social sciences and humanities projects bring innovative research concepts, ideas, methodologies, and technologies to practice in the local and regional communities, thereby supporting entrepreneurship and economic development. Many innovative ventures fail before initiation due to the lack of funding necessary to demonstrate the value and market viability of their ideas and technologies. The dissemination of UC knowledge and commercialization of UC technology in the marketplace directly furthers UC's scientific, educational, and charitable purposes and, in so doing, helps to grow California's economy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through State of California Assembly Bill (AB) 2664 funds designed to expand economic development in California by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship at UC, the UC Santa Cruz Office of Research has instituted SPLICE, the Support Program for Long-term Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, to support the advancement of campus innovation and entrepreneurship into the neighboring communities. Springboard is a SPLICE grant program that is specifically designed to help further innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities from the Divisions of Social Sciences and Humanities. The objectives of Springboard align with the vision of UCSC's office of [Industry Alliances & Technology Commercialization \(IATC\)](#); namely, to accelerate the dissemination and commercialization of UCSC research-based innovation and to enhance UCSC linkages with industry and the community.

Springboard supports UC Santa Cruz faculty, graduate and undergraduate students who have developed innovative ideas, concepts, methodologies, or technologies that have demonstrable economic, environmental and/or societal impact. Projects receiving Springboard funding support will be those that are already intended to be applied in the community or already on the path of commercialization but face specific hurdles or challenges standing in the way of progressing further. The funding support will help UCSC innovators overcome specific challenges, thereby increasing the chance of disseminating the knowledge through a non-profit organization and/or licensing the technology to a for-profit company — including establishing a startup company for the purpose of advancing the ideas and technologies.

Through Springboard, the Office of Research is making available up to \$30,000 for the Social Sciences division and up to \$30,000 for the Humanities division to be awarded through this one call for proposals. Grants of \$1K, \$3K, and \$5K will be awarded to creators of promising innovative programs and/or technologies that establish value and require further demonstration for wider adoption or commercialization. Therefore, projects executed through a partnership with an external entity, with a clear and verifiable demonstration of cost sharing and/or matching (cash or in-kind) are preferred. Larger projects requiring larger funding support (up to \$10K) will also be considered, but only after satisfying the demand from smaller projects.

UC Santa Cruz is mindful of the unique challenges faced by groups that are typically underrepresented in innovation and entrepreneurship and/or face challenges in accessing funding from traditional sources for startup ventures, such as women and minorities. Accordingly, UC Santa Cruz may give special consideration to projects that support, promote or encourage the inclusion of these groups.

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Springboard is limited to ideas, concepts, methodologies, or technologies that have been conceived and/or developed on campus within the Social Sciences and Humanities divisions. In the case of projects involving the use or distribution of new technology, such technology has to have been formally [disclosed and assigned](#) to UCSC at the time of submission of the application. Any technology currently licensed or held under an option to license to a for-profit company or any technology owned in whole or in part by a for-profit company is not eligible to receive Springboard funding. Additionally, non-UCSC technology-based intellectual property (i.e. intellectual property that has already been assigned to an outside entity) is not eligible for funding.

Eligible applicants are: faculty, researchers, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students currently employed by or enrolled at UC Santa Cruz. An applicant may be an eligible individual, a group of eligible individuals, or a group including both eligible individuals and outside collaborators (highly encouraged). In the case involving external collaboration, the grant will be awarded to the eligible (UCSC-affiliated) individual(s). Interdisciplinary groups or projects will receive special consideration.

STUDENT APPLICANTS

Student applications will be required to list a faculty supervisor who will be the Project Sponsor. Student applicants who are members of any of the Social Sciences or Humanities centers, institutes, research units or other similarly organized educational or research programs are required to obtain approval from the management of their respective center, institute, research unit, or program. For example, all applications from students in the Everett Program will have to be pre-approved by the Everett Program management on behalf of the program members.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Applicants are encouraged to consult with IATC office on questions regarding their project suitability for this grant. Successful applications for this opportunity will provide (in the prescribed application form) an overview of the goals of the project, a clear description of the specific challenges to dissemination and/or commercialization faced, a plan for overcoming those specific challenges including a timeline. Project objectives should be achieved within one year from the disbursement of funds; ***however, all Springboard funds received will need to be spent by June 30, 2019.***

The following project categories will receive special consideration. A description of how the project qualifies under one of the following Special Categories should be included in the application:

- 1. Promoting ethics, diversity or non-discrimination in the technology startup ecosystem.**
- 2. Helping the growth of the local and regional economy through job training and job creation.**
- 3. Developing the potential for the commercialization of UCSC technology.**

Springboard is not intended to fund research projects; it is intended to help bring research and/or students to the next level of engagement with off-campus organizations for the ultimate goals of economic development, job creation and lab-to-market innovation transfer. A partnership with an external entity, with a clear and verifiable demonstration of cost sharing and/or matching (cash or in-kind) is a big plus.

SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The following are examples of projects that would be eligible for Springboard funding:

1. a collaborative project with an external non-profit organization to bring research thoughts, methodologies, concepts to practice;
2. a collaborative project with a startup incubator/accelerator to transfer the knowledge and expertise in social sciences or humanities to tech startups in the community (e.g. diversity, ethics, sociological factors, etc.);
3. on-campus training programs and/or events for social sciences or humanities students to prepare them to become entrepreneurs with their skills and knowledge to be able to market themselves and their services when they graduate;
4. a proof-of-concept or prototyping project for a technology in collaboration with a company who has genuine interest in exploring the commercialization of the technology (SocSci/Humanities/BSOE collaborative tech, etc.);
5. a student internship program where the funds are used for social sciences or humanities student training (but generally not to subsidize the payments of the participating companies - unless the participating companies are startups); and
6. a collaborative inter-disciplinary campus project to develop innovative social sciences or humanities tools, methodologies, concepts with a clear path to commercialization or otherwise transfer to non-profit organizations.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Only activities involving development, testing, dissemination, validation, and/or commercialization costs (e.g. parts, labor and services) are eligible for Springboard funding. Eligible expenses generally include student stipends, prototyping/project costs, events, and the limited cost of dedicated administrative support. Funded activities will be limited to those specifically proposed in the application.

Ineligible costs include capital equipment, market research reports, consulting expenses, campus operational costs, and project administrative/operational costs (including legal and accounting services). Research already performed or expenses incurred prior to grant award are not eligible for funding. Faculty and staff salaries, stipends, and project-based remuneration are not eligible.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The UC Santa Cruz Office of Research is responsible for Springboard administration and implementation. This includes the application process, grant review committee selection and process, award administration and reporting process.

GRANT TERMS AND AMOUNTS

- Funding awards: \$1K, \$3K, or \$5K. Larger projects requiring larger funding support (up to \$10K) will also be considered, but only after satisfying the demand from smaller projects. The Grant Review Committee has full authority to determine funding amounts, which may be different from the amount requested in the application
- Funding period: up to one year from the date of award. **Note: all Springboard funds received will need to be spent by June 30, 2019.**
- Total number and amount of awards are contingent on availability of funds
- For priority consideration, external cash or in-kind matching support must be verifiable. A commitment letter from the source(s) of matching support will be required after the Springboard award is announced, but prior to the receipt of Springboard funds.

SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- In-kind support may be in the form of services or labor from non-campus sources such as non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, or private groups or individuals. Details of the nature and valuation of the in-kind support will be required.
- Cash support must originate from non-campus sources such as non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, or private groups or individuals. Cash funding must be committed to specific project activities. State of California government funds are not eligible for matching.

AWARD PROCESS AND POST-AWARD ADMINISTRATION

- Awardees will be required to sign a funding agreement
- Awarded funds (Springboard funds + matching funds if any) are to be used within 12 months
- Awardees will submit quarterly progress reports. The reporting process and content will be established at the time of funding.
- Awardees will be required to submit a final report with the results of the project at the completion of the grant year

APPLICATION REVIEW

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and ranked on a competitive basis by the Springboard Grant Review Committee. The committee will evaluate applications based on the criteria listed in the application form and will determine by a rank-ordered list those applications recommended for funding. The Grant Review Committee will have full discretion in selecting projects for awards and their decision will be final. Where applicable, reviewer comments will be provided to all applicants.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be rated in the following areas: social/technical merit, utilization/commercialization potential, development plan (budget, milestones, etc.), matching support, adherence to the purposes of AB 2664, and benefit to the University. Special consideration will be given to interdisciplinary projects, special projects (listed above), and projects catering to and/or including traditionally unrepresented or otherwise disadvantaged groups. Successful proposals will demonstrate public benefit and/or commercial viability.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit the [Springboard Application Form](#). Only applications submitted using the prescribed application form will be considered.

Springboard program information, including complete application instructions and required forms can be accessed on the [Springboard webpage](#).

Q&A WORKSHOP

Those interested in applying for Springboard funding or with questions on the program or application process are encouraged to attend the Q&A workshop – see the timeline below.

SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SPRINGBOARD GRANT TIMELINE

Announcement Release	March 7, 2019
Springboard Q&A Session	Tuesday April 2, 2019, 9:30–10:30 am Kerr Hall, Rm. 435
Application Deadline	Tuesday April 30, 2019 (11:59 pm Pacific)
Grant Award Committee Review	May 1–7, 2019
Notice of Award	May 7, 2019 <i>on or around</i>
Award Start Date	June 1, 2019
Quarterly Reports Due	Sept 15, 2019 (reporting through Aug 31, 2019) Dec 15, 2020 (reporting through Nov 30, 2019) Mar 15, 2020 (reporting through Feb 29, 2020)
Final Report Due	Jun 15, 2020 (reporting through May 31, 2020)

CONTACT INFORMATION For any questions related to the Springboard Grant process, please email innovation@ucsc.edu, or contact Michele Chamberlin at 831-459-5415.