

John Templeton Foundation

UC Irvine Foundation Relations

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Approaching the Templeton Foundation

The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality, supporting research on subjects ranging from complexity, emergence, evolution, and infinity to altruism, creativity, free will, gratitude, intellect, love, and purpose.

Overview: The overarching goal of asking the Big Questions was to discover the “new spiritual information.” This, in Sir John Templeton’s mind, encompasses progress not only in our conception of religious truths, but also in our understanding of the deepest realities of human nature and the physical world.

Characteristics of Successful Proposals

- Bold ideas that cross disciplinary boundaries
- Innovative
- Creative
- Enthusiastic
- Open to competition and new ideas
- Bring together the overlapping elements of creativity, freedom, gratitude, love, and purpose
- Combine tools and approaches from different disciplines

Awards

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Small Grants: \$217,400 or less

Large Grants: More than \$217,400

Deadlines

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Small Grants:

Cycle 1: February 29

Cycle 2: May 31

Cycle 3: August 31

Cycle 4: November 30

Large Grants:

August 31

How to Apply:

Create an Online Funding Inquiry and submit according to the schedule above. If the Foundation approves the Inquiry, a Full Proposal will be invited.

Grant Program Overview

Mathematics & Physical Sciences

- Supports innovative projects
- Focuses on foundational questions in mathematics or that seek a deeper understanding of the nature of reality within the realms of physics, cosmology, astronomy, chemistry, or other physical sciences
- Projects that are unlikely to be supported by conventional funding sources are especially encouraged

Life Sciences

- Supports projects investigating the evolution and fundamental nature of life, human life, and mind, especially as they relate to issues of meaning and purpose
- Projects are welcome from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including the biological sciences, neuroscience, archeology, and paleontology

Human Sciences: Supports projects that apply the tools of anthropology, sociology, political science, and psychology to the following moral and spiritual concepts: altruism, creativity, free will, generosity, gratitude, intellect, love, prayer, and purpose.

Philosophy & Theology: Supports projects that attempt to develop new philosophical and theological insights, especially (but not only) in relation to advances in scientific understanding.

Science in Dialogue: Supports projects that bring one or more scientific disciplines into a mutually enriching discussion with theology and/or philosophy, whether for a scholarly audience or the public at large.

UC Awardees

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2012

UC Riverside, Immortality,
\$5,000,000

2014

UC Riverside, Developing
Concepts of God, \$243,830

UC Santa Barbara, Ruling
the Mind, \$915,989

UC Davis, Quantum
Processes, \$412,342

UC Irvine, Dynamics of
Subjective Well-Being,
\$540,018

UC Berkeley, Taming
Quantum Systems, \$520,000

Websites

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**Science & the Big
Question:**

[https://www.templeton.org/
what-we-fund/core-
funding-areas/science-and-
the-big-questions](https://www.templeton.org/what-we-fund/core-funding-areas/science-and-the-big-questions)

UCI Foundation Relations:

<http://grants.give.uci.edu/>