


From: Giorgi, Tiziana tgiorgi@nsf.gov 
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Proposal Number: 2109047
Date: June 28, 2021 at 11:29 AM
To: Rolf Ryham rryham@fordham.edu
Cc: Young, Yuan-nan yyoung@njit.edu, Bryan Quaife bquaife@fsu.edu, Giorgi, Tiziana tgiorgi@nsf.gov

TG

Dear Dr. Ryham,

Thank you for your email.

Regarding your questions, please see my comments below.

Does the overall budget or budget per PI play a role in assessing the competitiveness of a proposal? For example, are proposals with large overall budgets considered separately from proposals, say, with smaller budgets?

The budget doesn't play a role in the assignment of a proposal to a panel or in the division decision of funding.

The comments rightly called out insufficient detail in some of our descriptions. These descriptions related to topics where we did not have preliminary data. Can you give us a little more information on how reviewers assess exploratory problems?

How exploratory problems are assessed by reviewers changes from reviewer to reviewer. Adding some more indication of the challenges to be expected and possible ways of overcome them is what I heard would have been welcomed by this panel.

The proposal is for a long-term project, and we previously applied for funding. Last year, our proposal received the ratings Very Good; Very Good/Good; Very Good/Good. This year, the proposal received the rating Very Good; Excellent/Very Good; Very good. Can you give us a sense if we are on the right track?

Often the ranking by a panel of a proposal is a reflection of the quality of the pool of proposals reviewed by the panel more than just of the merits of a single proposal, to predict how a proposal would do in the next panel is just not possible.

Finally, Fordham has a very strong undergraduate research program, and we hope to use this grant to cultivate more research opportunities for STEM undergraduate students, especially those coming from underrepresented groups. We need to articulate specific projects. Can you make any further suggestions regarding training opportunities through this grant?

Funds for undergraduate students can be included in the budget of a proposal, additionally REU supplements requests can be included with an NSF standard grant proposal (see details in the REU solicitation

[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5517&ods_key=nsf19582)

[WT.z_pims_id=5517&ods_key=nsf19582](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5517&ods_key=nsf19582)). REU supplements can also be requested after an award as been made, during the years of the project.

Please keep in mind that there are many different programs that the NSF offers, I would strongly encourage you not just to rely on my words but also to research the diverse set of NSF funding opportunities at the agency webpage.

Thank you for your inquiry.

All the best

Tiziana

On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 3:37 PM Giorgi, Tiziana <tgiorgi@nsf.gov> wrote:

Dear Professor Ryham,

Thank you for your email.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the review process via email.

Regarding feedback for a possible resubmission, the panel summary and the review analysis excerpts included in the PO comments indicate some shortcomings, which were outlined in the panel discussion, and that put the proposal at a disadvantage with respect to other proposals reviewed by the panel. Addressing such shortcomings might improve the chance for a better outcome of a resubmission.

Please keep in mind that the available funds are limited and a declination is often a reflection of the quality of the pool of proposals reviewed by the panel more than of the merits of a single proposal.

All the best,

Tiziana

Tiziana Giorgi
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From: Rolf Ryham <rryham@fordham.edu>
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 at 11:15 AM
To: "Giorgi, Tiziana" <tgiorgi@nsf.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Proposal Number: 2109047

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Dear Professor Giorgi,

I hope that you are well.

Yuan-Nan Young, Bryan Quaife, and I submitted a proposal to the DMS Applied Mathematics program that was unfortunately not supported. My collaborators

mathematics program that was unfortunately not supported. My collaborators and I would like to discuss the reviews and get some feedback on how we might improve the proposal for resubmission. Can we set up a telephonic or Zoom conference call to discuss the proposal and reviews at your convenience?

With kind regards,
Rolf Ryham

Department of Mathematics
Fordham University