

## 2016 DLI Call for Grant Proposals: Focus Areas & Submission Guidelines

### **Focus Areas**

The Digital Learning Initiative is accepting grant proposals until **January 20th, 2017** for implementation in the Summer and Fall of 2017. This year, we are particularly interested in proposals focusing on the following areas:

**Focus Area 1:** Technology-mediated projects that facilitate connections between faculty/student teams and outside organizations (corporations, public agencies, etc.) for the purpose of **project-based, experiential and work-integrated learning** and internships that are embedded in courses and programs of study.

**Focus Area 2:** Technology-mediated projects (such as ones involving predictive analytics, mentoring tools or platforms, academic alert/nudge systems etc.) that aim to improve the quality of academic, career and life **mentoring/advising** we offer to our students.

**Focus Area 3:** Innovative approaches to developing capabilities for **servicing “lifelong learners.”** This includes (but is not limited to) ideas for professional courses, micro-credentials, lifelong learning portals, and developing new/better ways to keep our alumni connected to BU.

**Focus Area 4:** Innovative approaches to **adaptive learning and/or differentiated instruction.** These are projects which, in the context of sound pedagogy, strive to individualize and personalize learning based on each student’s unique needs, current understandings and interests.

**Focus Area 5: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** with a preference for courses that showcase unique aspects of Boston University and can contribute to the University’s global reputation; XSeries (sequences of related courses or modules that lead to an overarching achievement); and MicroMasters.

**Focus Area 6:** Technology-mediated projects that aim to improve the quality of our **students’ global experience.**

## **Submission Guidelines**

- Concept Proposals should be **no more than 2 pages**.
- Proposals from individuals as well as entire departments/schools are welcome.
- Each proposal can be co-authored by several BU faculty or staff members but should designate **a single corresponding author**.
- Proposals should provide the following information:
  - A description of the proposed course/idea, including the problem the project is attempting to solve or spark it is intending to ignite.
  - A list of similar existing efforts upon which this project is attempting to improve or the unique contribution it attempts to offer.
  - The strategic value the project offers to Boston University.
  - The set of people that constitute the project/course team (including any assistants, if known).
  - Dates of project team availability for production and initial delivery (including a list of any other work commitments during those dates); please expect that any project, including a MOOC, could consume a substantial amount of time, often 3-6 months.
  - A plan for assessing how successful you've been in implementing your idea, if funded.
- Proposals for MOOCs should additionally include
  - a course syllabus, including a draft week-by-week course outline
  - estimated demand/audience for the course

## **Criteria for Selection**

- *Scope*: Proposed project must be responsive to at least one of the focus areas of the DLI seed program.
- *Sustainability*: Proposed project should have the potential to scale up and be used repeatedly and preferably by more than a single faculty member.
- *Collaboration*: Preference will be given to group projects that involve more than a single faculty member or those that aim to impact more than a single course.
- *Student Participation*: Preference will be given to projects that engage students not only to develop/assess technology, but also to gain professional experience, from PhD students headed for academic careers to undergraduates headed for teaching careers.
- *Impact*: Preference will be given to projects that have the potential of creating a strategic advantage for BU and enhance the distinctive value of a BU education.
- *Significance*: Project should have significant pedagogical value for our students and should include input from students.
- *Support*: Project must be strongly endorsed by participating academic unit(s), and all requisite technical and administrative support must be identified and deemed feasible.