Tips for submitting a successful AGU Bridge partner proposal

Engaged and committed faculty:

• Provide a departmental faculty participation statement showing contributions of each faculty member.

• Must include a minimum of 10-15% of tenured faculty and must include chair and/or director of graduate studies or equivalent.

Mentoring activities:

• Include examples of training attended by faculty on successfully mentoring and advising students, including minoritized students.

• If no experience mentoring minoritized students, provide a mentor/mentee training program outline including:
  • Research and professional development programs for faculty
  • Ideas for identifying and recruiting students to serve as peer mentors
  • Examples of a formal agreement outlining the expectations and responsibilities of the mentor and mentee

Admission practices and beliefs:

• Show evidence of multi-faceted admission criteria that examine student potential along with traditional measures of academic preparation. Strict GRE cutoff measures should not be in effect.

• Information about how graduate admission decisions are made and what factors are considered in admission decisions.

• Outline financial support package and health benefits that encompass the length of the financial award, requirements for maintaining funding, the cost of graduate student attendance and any resources to reduce financial burdens.
Tips for submitting a successful proposal

Advising and induction

- Include procedures on evaluating and advising students who are accepted but lack key undergraduate preparation.
- Outline how students can find an appropriate research advisor, departmental-level relocation assistance, description of Individual Development Plans (IDP’s) for professional advancement of graduate students, procedures for inducting students into graduate student academic and social cultures, and strategies for preparing current students applying to PhD programs.

Student progress and monitoring procedures

- Include how student progress is monitored in the first few semesters and early intervention plans if a student is doing poorly.
- Describe exam structure for reaching candidacy, including description, passing rates and policy on retaking exams.
- Outline long-term progress monitoring plans and procedures on how grievances are handled.

Data and demographics:

- Provide the number of applicants who applied in the previous year, students accepted into the program and students who are currently enrolled; include totals of all students and the numbers for minoritized students.
- Provide the total retention rate of all students and the retention rate of minoritized students in the program.
- If known, provide a description of why students left the graduate program in the past five years.

Equity and inclusion:

- Describe how the department is actively working towards diversity, equity and inclusion, with special attention on race and ethnicity, for example, commitment to an intensive mentor training program with diversity elements.

Learn more about the AGU Bridge program and apply!
agu.org/bridge-program