

Data-Driven Discovery (DDD) Investigator Competition
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
January 10, 2014

Q: Where is the competition web site?

The web site is <http://www.moore.org/DDDInvestigator>

Q: How often will this FAQ be updated?

Every few days until the pre-application closing date of Monday February 24, 2014 5 PM Pacific.

Q: What do you mean by “data science”, “data-intensive science” or “data-driven science”?

The Foundation will often use these terms interchangeably. In essence we are referring to the people and practices involved in leveraging the modern scale of massive, highly complex and fast moving data to make discoveries and learn about the world. Often this work is multidisciplinary, and the people described as “pi-shaped” to indicate that the effort involved is at the confluence of multiple skills and expertise. For the purposes of the DDD Initiative at the Moore Foundation, we are mostly interested at the confluence of the natural sciences with statistics and computer science to define these terms.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of pre-applications per institution?

There is no institutional limit, and the foundation encourages pre-applications from all qualified investigators.

Q: Is the competition open to for-profit enterprises?

No. Pre-applications will only be accepted from investigators at Ph.D.-granting institutions or non-profit private research institutions in the US.

Q: I am on the borderline between the Early Career and Experienced categories, what should I choose?

Please use your best judgment, we will not be counting days on the six-year window and there are no set quotas for each investigator category.

Q: May we list multiple investigators?

No. This is an individual investigator competition.

Q: My references are listed in my bio-sketch, why do I have to enter them again on the pre-application form?

The two lists are distinct but may overlap somewhat. The (up to) five *Influential Works* on the pre-application are for you to reference work that you think has helped define the field of data science. This may not be your own work. Taken collectively, across all the DDD IC pre-applications, these works will give the foundation a snapshot of data intensive science. Members of the DDD staff intend to write a review paper that summarizes these findings, and information will only be used in an aggregate form. All applicants will be notified when the paper is published in an open-access journal, likely in the second half of 2015 depending on editorial cycles.

Q: Why is the program limited only to US PhD-granting and private research institutions?

Part of the overarching strategy of the DDD initiative is shifting culture in academia within the United States to accept and promote data scientists for natural science discoveries. We plan to coordinate with other research funders, both in the US and internationally, to help catalyze similar programs tailored to their local conditions.

Q: What is an NSF-style bio-sketch?

Please see section 2.f(i) on Biographical Sketch(es) in the NSF grant proposal guide at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/gpg_2.jsp#IIC2fi.

An example is at <http://www.moore.org/docs/default-source/Grantee-Resources/sample-nsf-style-bio-sketch.pdf>.