

Data-Driven Discovery (DDD) Investigator Competition
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
January 8, 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 considered 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 Data-Driven Discovery Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, we are mostly interested at the confluence of the natural sciences with statistics and computer science to define these terms.

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 GBMF 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 only limited to US Ph.D. granting 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>.