

The Food Connection at UK
invites proposals for
Student Opportunity Grants

About the Program:

The University's agreement with Aramark to operate UK Dining created an endowment to enhance student opportunities for the study of food and food systems, and which contribute to the Food Connection's mission of promoting vibrant and sustainable agro-food systems. Proceeds of the endowment are distributed by the Food Connection at UK through this grants program.

Funding priorities

Proposals clearly related to food or food systems will be accepted from any program at the University of Kentucky, until March 20.

Priority will be given to proposals which advance undergraduate or graduate student research, innovation in instruction, experiential education, community engagement, or co-curricular activities. Projects supporting continuing costs of instruction, e.g., class field trips, will be considered but with secondary priority.

Projects in food technology, food economies, food and culture, nutrition, health, or food production will all be considered. Multi-disciplinary projects are encouraged as are projects from the social and life sciences, arts, and humanities that address food systems in creative ways.

Eligibility: Proposals must include a University of Kentucky faculty or professional staff member as project leader or co-leader. Projects may be initiated or co-led by students, so long as a faculty or staff leader is identified. Students may be named and listed as co-leaders or participants; however proposals will be accepted if the specific student participants have yet to be identified.

Collaborators and co-leaders may include individuals not employed by or enrolled at the University. Community engagement will be a positive factor in proposal evaluation. Participation of, or collaboration with UK Dining is not required but will be a positive factor.

Project leaders who have received awards in previous years may submit, but must attach final or progress reports to new proposals.

Project Funding and Requirements: This is an annual program that funds projects to be completed by the end of the following fiscal year. Up to \$50,000 is available in the FY18 round (to be completed by July 1, 2018). A maximum of \$5,000 per student participant will be considered. Grants benefiting multiple students may be awarded as much as \$10,000.

Operating costs, travel, small equipment and student compensation may be included in budgets. However, student stipends or wages may not exceed \$1,500/semester for undergrads, \$2,500 for grad students.

Project leadership must include a faculty or professional staff member whose home unit/department agrees to manage the dispersal of funds. Funds normally will be distributed at

project completion by reimbursing project expenditures by the leader's budget unit, though other arrangements can be considered when essential.

A final report must be completed and all funds encumbered within 1 year of the award starting date. Typically projects are funded from July 1 to June 30. Extensions or continuations will be considered for sufficient reason. Funded projects will submit a brief mid-year progress report to the Food Connection. Participation of leaders and/or participating students in an annual poster session open house is expected.

Application: Proposals should be submitted as a Word file attached to an email. Proposals should follow the outline below and not exceed 6 pages length:

1. Project Title
2. Concise summary of the project, including the projects contribution or relation to the promotion of vibrant and sustainable agro-food systems.
3. Project plan including goals, significance, methods/approach, timeline
4. Specific description of student participation and planned benefits, including number of students, how they will be selected, and their roles
5. Measures of success and benefits
6. List of team members, including leader and collaborating faculty, staff, students or community with name, title, position and concise statement of expertise or qualifications
7. Itemized budget

Consult the Food Connection web site for examples of past projects funded and additional information <http://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/>. Proposals received by March 20 will be reviewed by a committee of Food Connection-affiliated faculty and staff and be considered for funding commitments during this round. Email proposals or forward questions to: mssmith@uky.edu.