

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
2008 Computer Science Study Group (CSSG)

RA 07-43

June 2007

CSSG FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. When is the deadline for submitting a proposal?

A1. *The proposals for FY2008 Phase 1 funding must be submitted no later than August 10, 2007 at 4:00PM, ET.*

Q2. To whom do I send the proposal?

A2. *Submit the proposal to the www.grants.gov site by using the "Apply for Grants" function. Or, go directly to the DARPA/DSO Submission website at <http://www.sainc.com/dsobaa/> and choose "submit a full proposal" under RA "07-43, 2008 CSSG."*

Q3. Can researchers at National Laboratories submit a proposal for participation in the CSSG?

A3. *No, eligibility for proposers in 2008 is restricted to junior faculty at U.S. institutions of higher learning.*

Q4. What exactly is meant by a "junior faculty member" and why is the program restricted to junior faculty?

A4. *There is no strict prohibition against more senior faculty, but the selection criteria will strongly favor junior, pre-tenure faculty. This generally means individuals in tenure-track faculty positions that have less than 7 years of relevant professional experience since receiving their doctorate. The reason that the CSSG program favors junior faculty is that the project aims to educate a forthcoming generation of researchers and educators with knowledge of current problems and needs in information technology for Defense applications. The grant program in the CSSG is intended to be seed money for junior researchers to enable them to develop connections to the Defense community and to establish their research relevance to Defense applications.*

Q5. Is this opportunity available to research faculty at university-based research centers?

A5. *Yes, although preference will be given to junior researchers who also have teaching and/or doctoral dissertation advisement duties. The proposer should explain in their statement the duties and nature of their current appointment.*

Q6. Is the project open to Computer Engineering faculty?

A6. *Yes. Proposals are encouraged from all academic departments, providing the criteria specified in the Proposer Information Pamphlet (PIP) are met.*

Q7. If I am selected for participation on the Computer Science Study Panel, will I be allowed to attend partial sessions, for example, if I have to teach a class, or to attend a conference?

A7. *No. The CS Study Panel will involve approximately 20 days away from your university. There will also be time you will need to spend at your university to prepare and work on your proposal. Meetings will be scheduled many months in advance to provide sufficient time for schedule management. Attendance at all meetings, except in instances of severe personal emergency, is expected.*

Q8. Will I receive compensation or consultant fees for time spent on the CS Study Panel?

A8. *You receive your regular salary or compensation as arranged with your university. The university will receive grant funds for this purpose.*

Q9. Do I need to have recommendations or references and, if so, how many?

A9. *Yes. Please supply at least three technical references in your CV, and provide current email addresses for those references. We will contact your references, generally by email.*

Q10. If I already have a clearance, how should this be handled?

A10. *If you are chosen for the CS Study Panel, IDA will need to verify your clearance through the appropriate channels.*

Q11. Is there any limit to the number of nominations that an institution may make?

A11. *No.*

Q12. What is the duration of each CSSG Phase, and how do the CS Study Panel and CS Research Projects relate to each Phase?

A12. *The CSSG consists of two parts: the CS Study Panel and the CS Research Projects. The CS Study Panel is active during Phase 1, the first 12 months of the program, and during Phase 2, which can be from 12 to 24 months duration. Phase 2 includes meeting of the CS Study Panel and commencement of the CS Research Projects. The CS Research Projects may then continue to Phase 3 for an additional 12-month period.*

Q13. Is the \$12,000 suggested travel budget intended for the academic year CS Study Panel meetings alone? Will it suffice to cover the summer trips as well?

A13. *Direct travel expenses of \$12,000 should suffice for the 4 meetings expected to take place during the CSSG Phase 1 (a spring and fall meeting at IDA as well as two summer trips that occur during Year 1 of the CSSG.)*

Q14. Is it legitimate to budget for some graduate student time (say, 4 months) during Year 1 to assist in preparing the research proposal?

A14. Yes.

Q15. Are naturalized US citizens eligible for “U.S. DoD SECRET security clearances?”

A15. Yes.

Q16. How will I know if I have been selected to participate on the CS Study Panel?

A16. *You will receive a notice from the Program Manager with regard to your status, both select and non-select. The award negotiation process will be contingent upon receiving your SECRET clearance within a short period of time.*

Q17. If I am selected as a participant on the CS Study Panel, what resources are available to me to prepare for the Phase 2 proposal?

A17. *The CSSG has mentors and other advocates who will attempt to facilitate your access to resources, such as unclassified data and/or persons who might provide you with technical or operational information or perspective. It is the CS Study Panel participant’s responsibility to contact the PM, IDA or other involved personnel to request such resources.*

Q18. *The PIP says that the CS Study Panel “will also include a number of mentors and adjuncts.” Please define these terms and indicate whether someone can propose for these positions.*

A18. *“Mentors and adjuncts” are senior advisors and retired military personnel who can guide the participants in their understanding of the briefings and end-user requirements. Mentors and adjuncts will be chosen solely by DARPA and IDA outside of the solicitation process.*