

Cover photo: Entrance to Oxford University Museum of Natural History, with angel holding the Book of Life and a dividing cell.

SUPPORTING STRUCTURES

Innovative Collaborations to Enhance STEM Research at CCCU Member Institutions

***Supporting Structures*, generously funded with a \$2.1 million grant by the John Templeton Foundation, is a multi-faceted project run by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and its UK subsidiary, SCIO (Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford). The goal of the project is to support CCCU member institutions to advance their engagement with science through either a two-year grant worth up to \$133,000, or a three-year grant worth up to \$192,000.**

These grants provide financial assistance to colleges wanting to maintain historic commitments amid the current economic and cultural challenges but who are also keen to invest in the future of the institution by enhancing engagement with science and scientific research. Especially in the context of COVID-19, there is a clear need not only to help these vital educational institutions recover, but also to take advantage of the opportunities to develop new and innovative solutions in response to these contemporary crises. While contributing toward the alleviation of short-term needs, these grants go beyond being simply reactionary, offering opportunities for renewal, renovation, and expansion.

The grants are designed to enhance campus-wide cultures of constructive engagement with and investment in scientific research, in conversation with important questions and opportunities raised by the field of science and religion, and with attention given to broader issues of science and society. The centerpiece of each grant is salary support and research support for two or three Faculty Fellows. Each Fellow will carry out research through a collaboration with a nearby research-intensive institution and will conduct their research at that institution. This approach supports and advances scientific engagement at Christian higher education institutions by drawing on existing infrastructure.

Faculty Fellows, along with faculty colleagues from the humanities and social sciences, will also be provided training to deepen their understanding of and engagement with issues pertaining to science, religion, and society. Grant funds will also: establish or enhance student science and religion clubs; support undergraduate student researchers in STEM fields; provide opportunities for campus leaders and other campus-connected communities to engage science, religion, and society issues; fund activities to enhance diversity in STEM on campus; and fund public engagement of science.

Provosts and deans are invited to one of our explanatory webinars to learn more about the opportunities: January 11 and 14 at 12 pm EST. Please email stem.support@scio-uk.org for registration details.

KEY GRANT FEATURES

Enhancing research opportunities for early career STEM faculty

- Salary and research support for one academic year of half-time research leave for two or three Faculty Fellows.
- Priority will be given to Faculty Fellows conducting fundamental research in physics, chemistry, astronomy and planetary science, biology and zoology, geology, climatology and earth sciences, experimental psychology, or neuroscience.
- Proposed research should be undertaken in partner laboratories or research groups at R1 universities or comparable high-level research institutions.
- Proposed research should capitalize on research infrastructure at the partner university or research institution that is not normally available at the applying institution.

Participating in SCIO's Oxford Interdisciplinary Seminars in Science, Religion and Society (SRS)

- Monthly webinars for 6 or 9 faculty members (Faculty Fellow plus two additional faculty from social sciences and humanities per year for two or three years) on a broad range of SRS topics, led by major scholars in relevant fields.
- Faculty Fellows will participate in week-long Oxford-based faculty seminars in July 2022 and 2024 (timed to correspond with the annual Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion conference).
- Mentoring for Faculty Fellows on SRS in the specific religious and cultural context of the applying institution, provided by local theological/biblical faculty mentors.

Promoting campus-wide engagement with STEM and Science, Religion, and Society concerns

- Funding to attend a meeting focused on developing and enhancing offices of research and grant support among CCCU colleges.
- Funding for the applying institution's president to participate in a presidential roundtable in Oxford on STEM and SRS in July 2024.
- Funding to build or expand student SRS clubs.
- Funding to support undergraduate STEM research.

Enhancing public engagement with Science, Religion, and Society beyond the campus

- Funding for programs designed to enhance outreach to campus stakeholders (e.g., alumni, students' families, donors, denominational and church supporters, others in the immediate geographic region) through public events.
- Funding to stage on campus the new play *Fire from Heaven: Michael Faraday and the Dawn of the Electrical Age* (presented by the same creative team that created *Mr Darwin's Tree*, which has performed some 25 times on CCCU campuses and at two CCCU national conferences).

Providing support for enhancing diversity in STEM faculty

- Funding to adopt best practices for attracting and retaining diverse faculty members in STEM.



KEY APPLICATION DATES

January 11, 2021: Stage 1 application opens

March 1, 2021: Stage 1 application closes

March 15, 2021: Notification of shortlisting; Stage 2 application opens

April 15, 2021: Stage 2 application closes

May 3, 2021: Notification of awards

September 2021: Grant funding begins

INSTITUTIONS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

CCCU governing members and collaborative partners in North America.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Grant applications should be submitted by a provost or Dean's office.

SCHOLARSHIP & CHRISTIANITY IN OXFORD



Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford (SCIO), the U.K. center of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), is a research and educational institute in Oxford, England, working in partnership with Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. It serves CCCU institutions in North America and elsewhere and the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty members of

those institutions by producing and supporting scholarship and running scholarly projects of the highest standard. It offers two rigorous study abroad programs, the Scholars' Semester in Oxford and Oxford Summer Programme, along with SCIO Online courses. These enable students to develop academically and experience scholarly life at a major research university. For more information, visit scio-uk.org.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit scio-uk.org/research/supporting-stem or email stem.support@scio-uk.org.

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