



Birmingham-Illinois Partnership for Discovery, Engagement and Education BRIDGE Seed Fund Evaluation, Winter 2020-2021

The BRIDGE Seed Fund is jointly supported by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Birmingham to stimulate wider academic engagement between the two institutions. Each university provides \$100,000 annually to offer three grant categories (with average award amounts of \$5,000):

- **Implementation Grants** strengthen existing faculty-faculty relationships leading to clearly defined outputs.
- **Initiation Grants** encourage wider faculty involvement and expand institutional engagement by funding new research relationships with counterparts at both institutions.
- **Teaching and Learning Grants** stimulate new educational relationships and enhance student learning by developing educational relationships with counterparts at both institutions.

Since December 2014, the two institutions have supported seven grant cycles totaling \$1,000,000 in investments (\$500,000 per institution) with 90 projects receiving funding. Due to COVID-19, 11 of those 90 projects have been postponed and will commence during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Impact

Below are key outcomes from six of the past seven grant cycles. Data was collected via a survey sent to the PIs of 71 projects. This figure reflects those projects that received a grant between 2014-2020 and whose PIs are still working at their respective institutions. Responses were collected from 35 projects (41 PIs).



What recipients say about the impact of BRIDGE funding

“We believe this will take our efforts to the next level and it will not only strength ties [between our institutions], but we are already seeing these efforts strength ties internally at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.”

John Scott, Associate Research Scientist, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

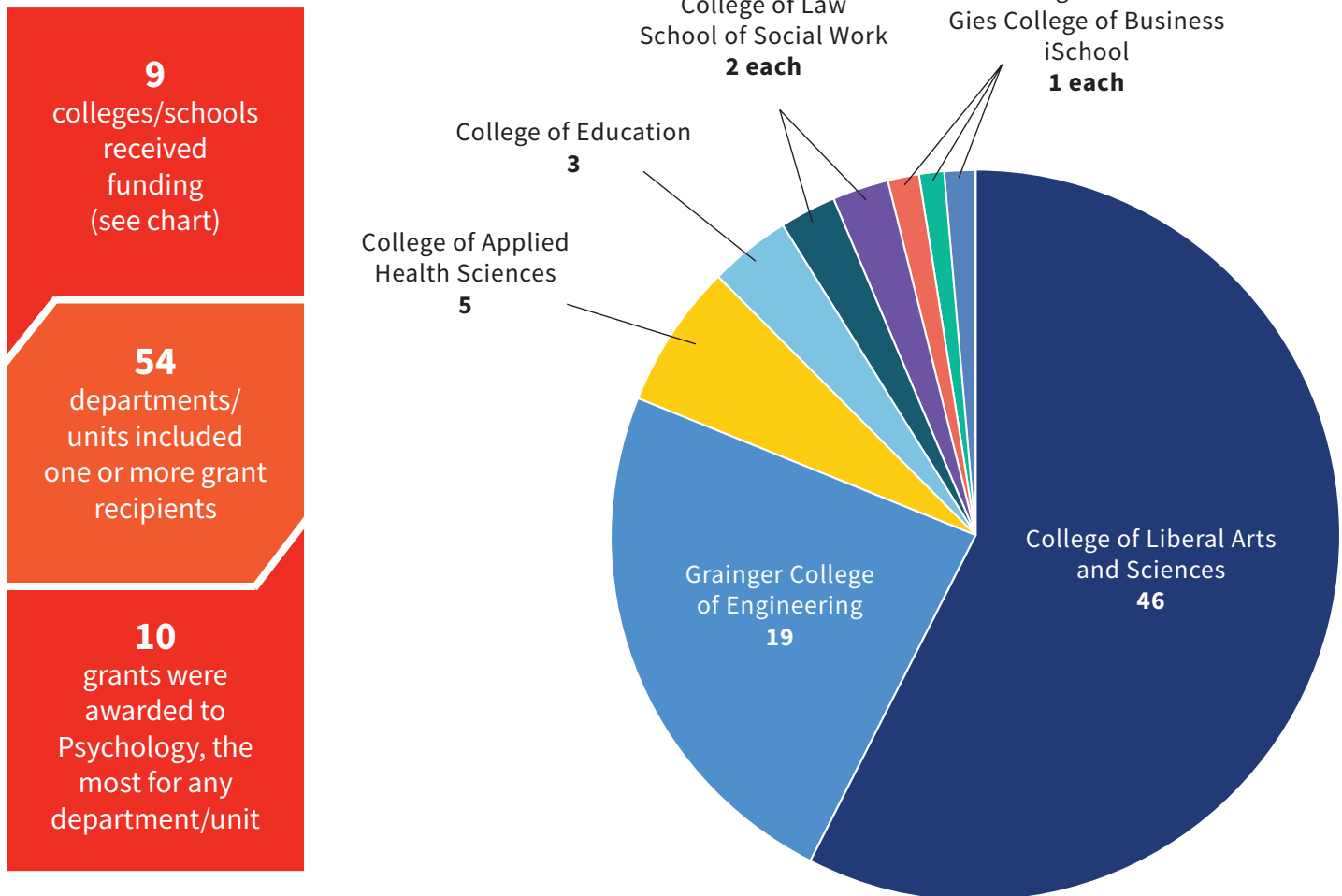


External agencies supporting BRIDGE projects

Arts and Humanities Research Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, EU Horizon, Global Challenges Research Fund, International Association for Volunteer Effort, National Science Foundation, Natural Environment Research Council, British Academy, Wellcome Trust, and many more

Academic Impact at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Outcomes of the BRIDGE Seed Fund are positive. As the two institutions continue to invest in faculty and research, two goals include diversifying the disciplines in sponsored projects and expanding social sciences and humanities research. Below is the academic impact for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Department/Unit Breakdown

3 or more grants: Beckman Institute; Economics; Integrative Biology; Kinesiology and Community Health; Plant Biology; Railway Engineering; Special Education; English; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Psychology

2 grants: Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Comparative and World Literature; Computer Science; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Illinois Sustainable Technology Center; Linguistics; Mathematic Sciences; Mechanical Science and Engineering; School of Earth, Society, and the Environment; Political Science; Prairie Research Institute

1 grant: Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Animal Sciences; Anthropology; Atmospheric Sciences; Bioengineering; Biology; Business Administration; Cellular Molecular Biology; Children and Family Research Center; Cline Center for Democracy; Copyright Law; Education; Educational Psychology; Entomology; Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior; Food Science and Human Nutrition; History; Information Science; Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment; Jewish Studies; Latina/o Studies; Law; Literatures and Languages Library; Materials Science and Engineering; National Center for Professional and Research Ethics; Nuclear Engineering; Recreation, Sport and Tourism; Regional Economics Applications Laboratory; Social Work; Sociology; Spanish and Portuguese; Speech and Hearing Science



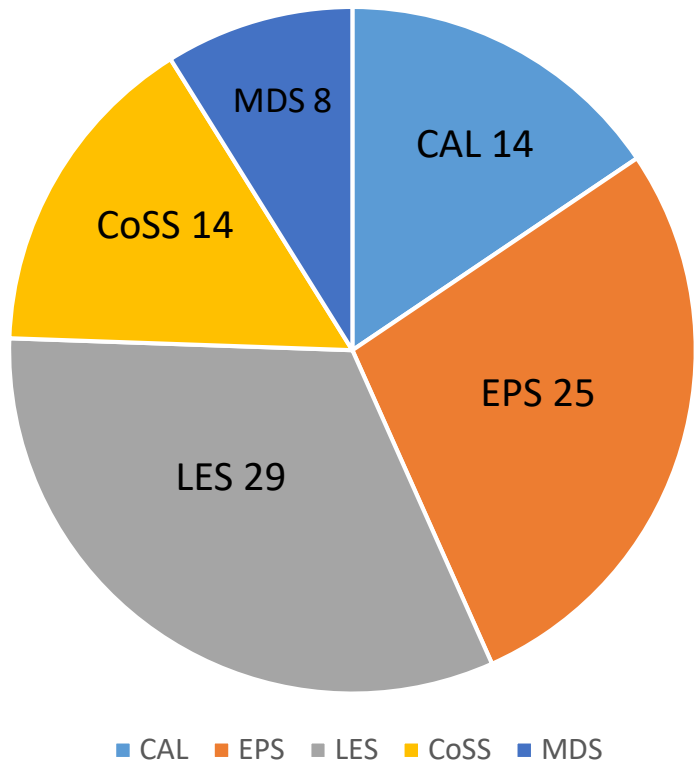
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Awards by College

90 grants awarded since round 1 2014/15

32 departments included in grants

9 grants awarded to GEES the most for any department



Departmental breakdown

3 or more grants: Biosciences, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Business School, GEES, History and Cultures, Law, Maths, Psychology, English Drama and Creative Studies, Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, Physics and Astronomy.

2 grants: Education, Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Neurobiology, Nursing, Social Policy

1 grant: African Studies, BiFoR, Cardiovascular Studies. Human Reproductive Science, Cultural Heritage, Education and Social Justice, Health Services, Inclusion and Disability, Cancer and Genomic Sciences, Inflammation and Aging, Linguistics, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, Railways, Civil Engineering, Computer Science.