

# PIVOT

## Creative Inquiry Support Program

The goal of the PIVOT program is to support researchers who need a pivot towards a new research area, change research directions or strategy, but are currently unable to do so due to lack of financial support. The program is intended to support creative inquiry, intellectual growth and skill development at a host institution, while promoting inter-institutional collaboration between the host institution and the University of Georgia during their temporary absence from UGA. Awardees of the PIVOT program are expected to learn and acquire specific skills, gain new knowledge and expertise, work on collaborative research with host institutions, prepare joint grant proposals or engage in scholarly activities stemming from the collaborative research during the PIVOT period. The primary goal of this creative inquiry support program is to enable the faculty to revamp their research programs by learning new skills and expanding their professional network. Faculty applicants are expected to provide a strong justification for a 'pivot' in their research direction or strategy. Requests whose main objective is to teach at another institution or to engage in professional development for teaching are not suitable for this program. Faculty who received an 'unsatisfactory' remark in recent annual evaluation or those undergoing a corrective post-tenure review, are encouraged to utilize this opportunity to PIVOT and strategize their future research direction. The PIVOT is solely a financial support program, and does not provide administrative, logistical, technical or programmatic support to faculty during the mini-sabbatical period.

Through the PIVOT program, the college of engineering (CENGR) research office offers financial assistance and/or salary support for faculty to travel to a host institution nationally or internationally for a pre-determined period (typically 1-3 months). There is **no instructional release** associated with this grant program and therefore applicants are encouraged to use their summer semesters for this mini-sabbatical program. The maximum amount of support from the CENGR research office is capped at **\$5000/month** for up to 3 months, but faculty are encouraged to seek matching funds from their schools and/or host institutions. The funds provided by the research office can be used towards faculty summer salary, travel expenses, housing, research supplies etc., but cannot be used towards post-doc or student salaries.

**Eligibility:** At this time the PIVOT program is only available to full-time tenured faculty (Associate and Full Professors) who are employed for **at least 10 years** in the college of engineering. This program is NOT open to School of Computing faculty at this time. Before submitting an application, applicants must make prior arrangements with their host research partner, who is willing to commit their time and resources to support your mini-sabbatical in their lab or institution.

**FY25 Cycle:** A total of 1 award may be supported through the PIVOT funding program during FY25 (ends June 30, 2025). Recipient is expected to provide a 2 page 'Outcomes Report' at the end of the mini-sabbatical period.

### Application Instructions:

- Deadline: **December 1, 2025** by 5 PM.
- Applications must be submitted via email to Joyce Rice ([jrrice@uga.edu](mailto:jrrice@uga.edu)) as a single PDF with "PIVOT PROGRAM APPLICATION" as subject line. The PDF must combine the following documents:
  1. Two-page project plan with clear and achievable research goals and timelines that includes the following:

- a) Identification of appropriate host researcher, host institution, with a brief description of their potential contributions to the applicant's career development, and the opportunity for future partnerships between the applicant and the host.
  - b) Justification of the need, by detailing these specific skills and additional expertise to be gained during the mini sabbatical period that would otherwise be not available for the applicant. It is important to make a compelling case as to why a physical presence at the host institution is needed as opposed to learning these skills without travelling to the host institution. Please explain how the additional skills learned during the mini sabbatical program would provide competitive advantage to the applicant while seeking external funding. Cite specific funding opportunities if applicable.
  - c) Provide a description of how the current responsibilities in instruction research or service would be handled during the absence (this should be done in consultation and approval of the school chair).
  - d) Budget and Justification: please provide a brief description of how the funds will be used for travel, subsistence, research supplies or towards summer salary during the mini sabbatical period.
2. Applicant's CV (limit to 3 pages).
  3. Letter from the host institution (or host researcher), offering to host the applicant and provide matching support (if any).
  4. Support letter from School Chair or Director approving the extended absence and how the instructional and service responsibilities will be met.