

**GUIDELINES FOR D'ARBELOFF FUND INITIAL PROPOSALS
FOR 2008-09 EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

Initial Proposals:

The initial proposal (2-3 pages) should explain the project's objectives, and how it relates to the areas of interest and the criteria outlined below. A rough estimate of the budget request should be included. The preliminary proposals should be sent to Elizabeth Cooper in the Office of Faculty Support (edc@mit.edu). Please contact Elizabeth (3-0270) or Dean Diana Henderson (3-0507) if you would like additional information.

Criteria:

The call last year was more general. This year we are focusing on specific recommendations made by the Educational Commons Subcommittee. Specifically, we are encouraging proposals for curriculum design that fall into three categories:

- HASS "Big Ideas" subjects
- Design
- SME Essentials

In addition, proposals for initiatives involving dynamic, effective pedagogy in any of the General Institute Requirements areas, including Communication Intensive subjects, are welcome.

For details on the recommendations of the subcommittee, please refer to the ECS website at <http://web.mit.edu/ecs> . The web site will be more completely populated over the summer as specific criteria for the core knowledge in the pilots for a possible Design GIR are developed. The new subjects should be developed in the context of a changing, diverse student population, new pedagogical methods, the first-year experience of our undergraduates, and the thoughtful renewal and reform of the General Institute Requirements (GIRs).

There is often little motivation or incentive for faculty from different departments or schools to collaborate on the development of new subjects. Trends in student interests and research suggest that interdisciplinary learning is an increasingly important part of an MIT education. Proposals to develop experimental subjects or other types of educational experiences that might

illuminate best practices for interdisciplinary learning or that build on the distinctive potential of MIT's faculty are therefore also welcome.

Preliminary proposals are preferred for projects that include one or more of the following elements:

- **Motivation:** The project provides incentives for students and faculty to participate.
- **Collaboration:** The project stimulates interactions among faculty across departments or Schools and/or among faculty and other members of the extended MIT community, such as alumni/ae, close industrial partners, research scientists, partners at other institutions, and so on.
- **Impact:** The project can be expected to have national or global impact and contribute visibly to MIT's leadership role as a top-tier educational institution.
- **Sustainability:** The project will lead to long-term commitments by Schools and departments, with a result that it is likely to become a regular part of the MIT curriculum. For example, a project's long-term survival should not be entirely dependent upon the continuing involvement of only one or two key faculty or key students, and there should be a plan for sustainability after the initial d'Arbeloff funding terminates.
- **Scalability:** Initiatives that affect significant numbers of students are preferred. Initiatives that may be more practicable as small-scale projects, such as intense hands-on experiences or pilots in pedagogical innovation, should nonetheless be designed with scalability in mind.

Requirements and Restrictions:

- Participation in projects funded by these awards, whether participation is for compensation or as a volunteer, qualifies as "significant use" of MIT Administered Resources under MIT Policies and Procedures. In accordance with the treatment of "significant use," ownership of intellectual property, including copyrights in instructional materials and curriculum, will vest with MIT.
- For multiple year projects, funding commitments will be made on a year-by-year basis.
- The d'Arbeloff resources are intended primarily for faculty-led initiatives, with the understanding that many such initiatives may involve non-faculty participants.