The University of Washington routinely partners with industry on research engagements. In fiscal year 2014, the UW received over $140 million in support from companies. This support comes in the form of both sponsored projects and gifts.

**SPONSORED PROJECTS**

Sponsored projects are customized research engagements with one or more UW researchers. These engagements often begin with a meeting or campus visit where the company identifies a researcher (or researchers) with whom it would like to work. If there is mutual interest in a project, the researcher may submit a short proposal to the company for review. If the company is interested, its representatives work with the researcher to develop a detailed plan that covers the scope, schedule and budget for the project. This plan is then sent to the UW’s Office of Sponsored Programs, which works with the company to negotiate a formal legal agreement covering the project.

The agreement typically includes project milestones and deliverables as well as intellectual property and other contract terms. Industry-sponsored projects are subject to indirect costs at the same level that applies to federal grants. In fiscal year 2015, this rate is 54.5 percent for research projects and 27 percent for clinical trials. The cost for a sponsored project varies depending on the scope. Most researchers like to get at least enough funding to support a graduate student for one year. This fully loaded cost is about $60,000 for an engineering graduate student and does not include costs for faculty time, equipment, materials or travel. The total cost for a one year project is typically $75,000 to $100,000. The researcher may elect to take on a smaller project.
GIFTS

Some companies support UW research through gifts to departments, labs or programs doing work that is of company interest. Like sponsored projects, companies often identify areas they would like to support through hosted campus visits. Once the donor has decided on a recipient and an amount, the UW’s Corporate & Foundation Relations team will work with the company to put together a letter documenting the gift. Since a gift is philanthropic, there are no contracted deliverables or intellectual property access. The UW does not assess indirect costs for gift support and the gift may be tax-deductible.

Companies may also provide gift support to the university through in-kind donations of equipment or software or through below-market discounts on its products. In-kind donations may be tax-deductible, but the company must develop its own assessment of the value of its gift for tax purposes.

SPONSORED PROJECTS VS. GIFTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORED PROJECTS</th>
<th>GIFTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Specific research project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>Project plan and legal agreement</td>
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<td>Payment</td>
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<td>Indirect costs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Deliverables and milestones</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual property access</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CONTACTS

For questions about or assistance with industry-sponsored research, contact:

Todd Cleland
Director, Industry Relations, Engineering
tcleland@uw.edu | 206.543.9852

David Iyall
Senior Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Engineering
iyall@uw.edu | 206.543.8192

Valerie Overlan
Associate Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Engineering
overlan@uw.edu | 206.685.0167

For questions about or assistance with corporate gifts, contact:

Tamara LaFrance
Senior Director, Corporate Relations
tlfrance@uw.edu | 206.616.3702