Companies play an integral role in supporting an array of diverse research projects at the University of Washington. Sponsored projects offer an innovative way for companies to tap UW research expertise and explore new areas while tackling complex issues. Industry sponsors work directly with faculty to define custom projects that align with their needs and interests. In fiscal year 2019, the UW received $87 million in research awards from industrial sponsors, ranking us among the top schools in the US in industry sponsorship. Our corporate relations officers can help connect you to the right UW experts for your project.

**DEFINING YOUR PROJECT**

The first step in creating an industry-sponsored program is to define the terms of the research that will be carried out. A UW principal investigator will work directly with your company’s representative to create a project plan that will identify these terms. This document should clearly specify the following:

- **Project scope** – A description of the work that will be done, including specific deliverables and milestones.
- **Schedule** – A timeline for project completion.
- **Resources required** – A detailed budget for the project, including costs for labor, materials, equipment, travel, etc.
- **Collaborative efforts** – A description of how the work will be divided (needed only if the project will involve joint effort between the UW and the sponsor company).

Once this document has been completed, the UW principal investigator can begin the internal proposal review and approval process. The department chair and dean will review the project and verify that it is appropriate for the department, that the necessary resources are available, and that the budget is adequate. Once this recommendation for approval has been obtained, the project moves to the UW’s Office of Sponsored Programs, which manages all research grants and contracts for the university.
reimbursement of actual costs plus overhead at the UW's current federally negotiated rate. Such agreements often have a not-to-exceed maximum price. In some cases, where research objectives and costs are well understood, the parties may agree to fixed price terms. The UW requires a payment schedule that is sufficient to ensure payments keep pace with planned project expenditures.

> **Warranty and liability** – The UW does not provide any warranty related to research results or IP. In addition, per the Office of Sponsored Research, under Washington law, the UW is precluded from indemnifying anyone, including the sponsor, for any form of deliberate misconduct.

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