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# Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

## Spencer Foundation

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# Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

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*Our goal is to advance understanding of education practice and its improvement by supporting intellectually ambitious education research projects.*

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## Education practice

- teachers and classrooms
- education organizations, institutions, and policies
- teacher education and professional development
- out of school learning
- education at all stages of life

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## Intellectually ambitious

- creative and transformative
- challenging
- deeply relevant
- addressing a major idea or practice in the field
- sometimes large-scale

We encourage a range of methods and topics, including building research infrastructure

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The Letter of Intent should describe the what, the why, and the how:

- WHAT: Describe your idea and make the case for how it is practically or theoretically significant. *What is the focus of your study and why is it important to education practice?*
- WHY: Situate the idea and study in a broader context and other research literature. *How will your study impact the field?*
- HOW: Describe how you will conduct the study and analyze your data. *What research methods will you use?*

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## Characteristics of a good letter:

- Is well-written – accessible language and minimal jargon.
- Conveys a “story line” connecting one section to the next (conceptual framework).
- Contains a good balance among the “what,” “why,” and “how.”
- Is convincing – important topic, good design, highly capable researchers.

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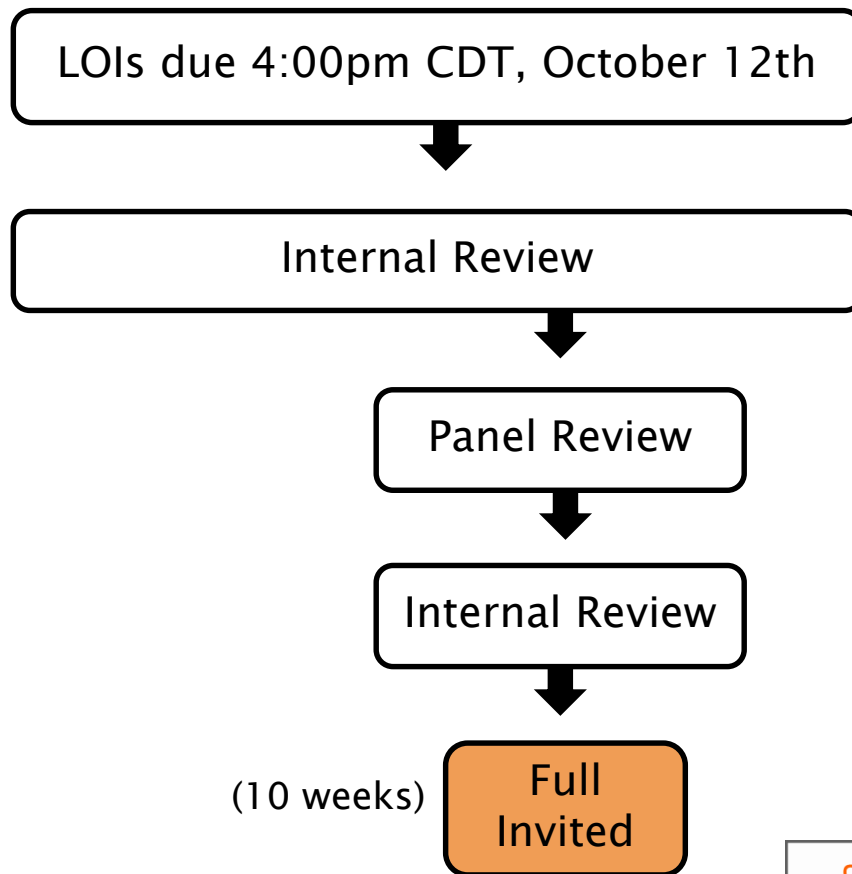
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## To keep in mind:

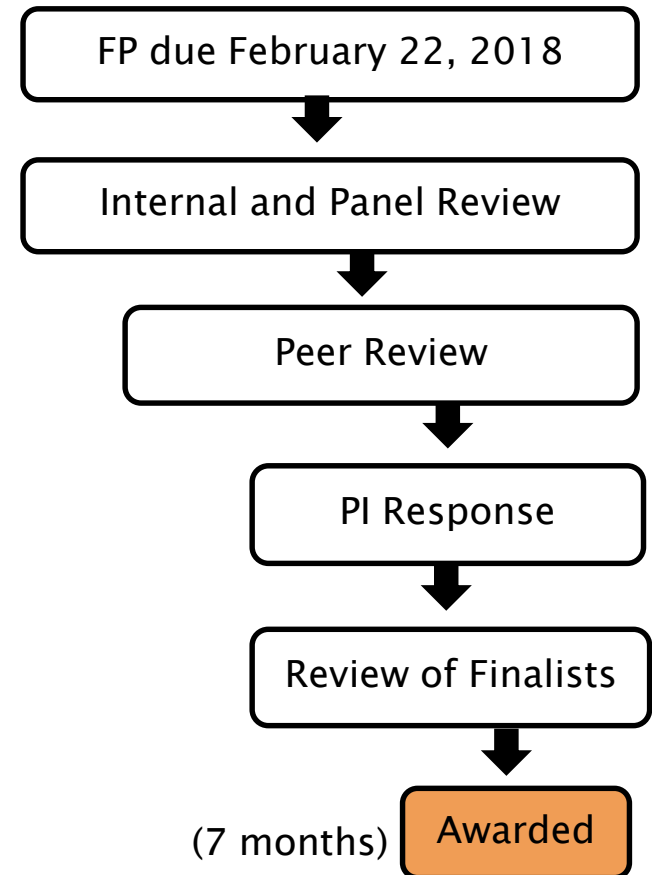
- Write in a clear and focused manner for a non-specialist reader
- Ensure that you convey the importance or significance of the study to education practice
- Draw clear connections among research questions, theory, and methods.
- Ground your study squarely with a theoretical frame, the research literature, and/or the context.

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## Letter of Intent Review Process



## Full Proposal Review Process





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## Guidelines/Eligibility:

- Administering organization must be a non-profit
- PI and Co-PIs must have doctorate degrees or appropriate experience.
- Budgets limited to \$1,000,000 including 15% maximum indirect cost charges
- Duration can be anywhere from one to five years

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## Online System – My Profile

- PI should log in or register to create an account.
- PI should update their My Profile information and upload a current CV (no more than 10 pages).
- If there are Co-PIs on the project, they should also log in and update their My Profile information.
- From the PI's account, a Letter of Intent draft application should be created.

The screenshot shows the 'Spencer Workbench' interface. At the top, there is a dark header with the text 'Spencer Workbench'. Below this, a welcome message reads: 'Welcome to your Spencer Workbench. Whether you have logged on to submit a grant application, complete a narrative report, or work on your assigned reviews, the first step is to update your Spencer profile page by clicking the button below.' A prominent orange button labeled 'Update My Profile' is centered below the message. Underneath, a smaller text block provides contact information: 'If you have any questions as you work within the Spencer Foundation online system, please feel free to contact Annie Brinkman, Grants Manager, at abrinkman@spencer.org or 312-274-6511.' At the bottom of the main content area, a dark header says 'Start a Proposal' with a plus sign icon. Below this, the text 'The following programs are currently' is visible. On the right side of the interface, there is a vertical navigation menu with several items: 'My Profile', 'Draft and...', 'Grant Program', 'Small Grant', 'Midcareer Grant', 'Midcareer Grant', 'Lyle Spencer Research Awards', and 'My Review'.

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## Letter of Intent Application

- Basic information
  - Proposal Title
  - Project Summary (200 word limit)
  - Duration
  - Estimated financial scope
- Letter of Intent narrative (2000 words)
- Research Team bio sketches
- Project data

No institutional sign-off is required with the Letter of Intent

### Proposal Summary

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\* Proposal Title:

\* Project Summary (200 word limit):

200 words left

\* Duration (in months):

\* Financial Scope (including no more than 15% indirect costs):

\$50,000 to \$250,000

\$250,000 to \$500,000

\$500,000 to \$750,000

\$750,000 to \$1,000,000

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We invite you to submit your ideas!

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General Questions – please use the Q&A function in the webinar.

Or, for specific questions on your project, email [lyles@spencer.org](mailto:lyles@spencer.org).