PI Eligibility

For each sponsored project, one investigator is typically designated as the PI. The PI bears ultimate responsibility for academic decisions as well as for financial, administrative and compliance matters of the project. Other individuals with significant involvement may be listed as "Co-Principal Investigator" or "Co-Investigator".

Federal agencies permit more than one PI on a project. This presents an important opportunity for investigators seeking support for projects or activities that clearly require a "team science" approach. As the rules differ from agency to agency, for more information about the multiple PI model, please refer to the website for the particular agency to which you are interested in submitting a grant application.

In order to maintain academic standards and in recognition of the University’s assumption of liabilities under sponsored projects, the University limits the eligibility of persons who may serve as PIs.

A PI normally must have a full-time appointment and must be an:

- Officer of Instruction in the rank of:
  - Professor
  - Associate Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Instructor
  - or an

- Officer of Research in the rank of:
  - Senior Research Scientist/Scholar
  - Research Scientist/Scholar
  - Lamont Research Professor
  - Lamont Associate Research Professor
  - Lamont Assistant Research Professor

Persons with appointments carrying other titles, including those in a visiting or adjunct grade, may act as co-PIs with officers in one of the instructional or research grades cited above. However, individuals who do not meet the above criteria may not serve as the sole PI without the approval of their department chair or director and dean or vice president, as well as the Provost.

The Provost has delegated the authority to make such exceptions as follows:

- For those holding appointments at CUMC, the Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences;

- For those holding appointments at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Lamont), the Director; and

- For those holding appointments elsewhere in the University, the EVPR.

Officers seeking an exception to this policy should submit a request through SPA, the CTO or CTV, as applicable. Approval may be requested on a project-by-project basis or for all projects of the officer. The request must be countersigned by the appropriate chair or director and dean or vice president in order to acknowledge the financial responsibility of the department and school for the proposed project or projects. In addition, the request must include the individual’s curriculum vitae and, if it relates to a specific project, an abstract of the project.