

This is a model budget justification narrative drawn on past applications but based on a fictional project. It's designed to help you think about your own narrative, with some playful examples (e.g., vibranium shields) along the way.

Other select model proposals, budgets, and budget justification narratives from past and ongoing funded projects are available on the HWW website.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE

Project Leader: Steve Rogers (University1)

Project Coordinator(s): Antonia Stark (University2)

Project Title: The Avengers Initiative

Project Period: 1/1/2017–8/16/2018

Funds Requested: \$81,542

PERSONNEL: SALARIES AND FRINGE

Steve Rogers, PhD (Project Leader, University1)

Prof. Rogers is Associate Professor of Military History at University1. He specializes in the history of the development of specialized weapons technologies from classical antiquity to the present, with a special emphasis on the various usages of chemical weapons in the European theatre of WWII. He will provide primary direction and supervision for this project, including administrative and financial oversight of the overall project, coordinating the inter-university collaboration throughout the lifecycle of the project, and work closely with the project coordinator at University2 and both graduate assistants (one at each university) to flesh out the details of the graduate lab practicum and undergraduate outreach components of the project. We are requesting 1 month of summer salary to support Prof. Rogers at the initial stages of the project's development. Prof. Rogers' annual salary is \$90,000 per year on a 9/12 appointment; one month of salary equals \$10,000, which is allowable under the terms of the RFP. Fringe benefits were calculated using University1's current rates [\[link to University1's relevant website\]](#).

Antonia Stark, PhD, JD (Project Coordinator, University2)

Prof. Stark is the Ultron Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Center for Posthumanity at University2, where her research focuses on the implications of artificial intelligence on 21st century asymmetric warfare and the effects of such technologies on what it means to be human. She will direct and supervise University2's component of this project and corresponding funds, and will work closely with the project leader at University1 on the graduate lab practicum and undergraduate outreach components of the project. We are requesting 1 month of summer salary to support Prof. Stark at the initial stages of the project's development. Prof. Stark's annual salary is \$90,000 per year on a 9/12 appointment; one month of salary equals \$10,000, which is allowable under the terms of the RFP. Fringe benefits were calculated using University2's current rates [\[link to University2's relevant website\]](#).

James Barnes (Phd candidate, University1) and James Rhodes (PhD candidate, University2) are working with the project leader and project coordinator to compile, edit, analyse, etc. their research data, to develop the larger context of the graduate lab practicum in which they work, and to create suitable undergraduate outreach experiences through which they may share the results of the project's research. Both graduate research assistants bring substantial intellectual contributions to the project, with Barnes' interests focusing on PTSD resulting from the use of transhuman weapons technology in combat and Rhodes critiquing the racial, sexual, and class assumptions undergirding much of contemporary transhumanist theory. Both will receive \$10,500 stipends through HWW for one year of work, with tuition and fee remits coming from their home universities.

We are also requesting funds to support a project assistant at both universities to work with the project leader and project coordinator to facilitate communications between collaborators, maintain project timelines, process invoices, push out research outcomes. We were advised by the Humanities without Walls consortium that this expense would be an excellent use of a portion of the research funds, given the complex and oftentimes convoluted nature of inter-institutional collaboration. The rates of pay indicated in the budget reflect median rates of pay for similar positions at our home institutions [[link to relevant websites](#)], and the number of hours of project assistant effort comprises our best estimate at present.

Finally we are requesting funds for technical support to test out the entirely fictional, posthuman technologies described below. This technical support is crucial to the analysis that comprises the bulk of our research.

SUPPLIES

The University1 team will be purchasing four vibranium shields and University2 team will be purchasing two repulsor units. Please don't ask me to explain how we will incorporate these fictional devices into our research plan, because this is a fictional budget narrative that serves as a model for real proposals. Suffice it to say it is a *robust* justification that *connects explicitly* to the research question and statement of work explicated in the proposal; that is the crucial part. 'Nuff said.

TRAVEL/EVENTS

Travel and event funds have been allocated to cover three collaboration meetings (two at University1, one at University2), in order to comply with the RFP's recommendation that the work of collaboration be built into the life of the project and therefore into the proposal budget. We determined that, even with the support of local project assistants and the convenience of online communication, much collaboration at crucial junctures should consist of face-to-face meetings if the collaboration is to be successful. Therefore we have scheduled a collaboration planning meeting at the beginning of the project, an interim assessment meeting before our interim report is due to HWW, and a final meeting to reflect on and assess the project's outcomes and impact. Budgeted

hotel costs, mileage reimbursement, and per diem costs are based on our local universities' policies [\[link to relevant websites\]](#).

Also based on advice given in the RFP we plan to hold two undergraduate engagement and outreach events, one on each campus, to showcase the results of the research and introduce undergraduates to the process of collaborative research. Budgeted hotel costs, mileage reimbursement, and per diem costs are based on our local universities' policies [\[link to relevant websites\]](#). Catering costs for both events were determined in line with local university procurement policies [\[link to relevant websites\]](#), and estimated attendees comprise our best estimate at present.

Finally we seek to hold a research symposium in Chicago, IL, to which we plan to invite scholars, graduate researchers, and undergraduates from throughout the consortium. Budgeted hotel costs, airfare, and per diem costs are based on our local universities' policies [\[link to relevant websites\]](#), while catering costs for were determined in line with local university procurement policies [\[link to relevant websites\]](#), using the best available prices in the venue area [\[link to relevant example websites\]](#), and estimated attendees comprise our best estimate at present.

We recognize that the budgeting for food has exceeded the cap on food costs (3% of the total budget) but feel that the costs of food incurred are not excessive and are essential for the multiday meetings and events that we have scheduled. We have taken pains to ensure that the spending on food is within reason and explicitly connected to the goals and work of the research proposal.

FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (F&A)

F&A costs are not included per the sponsor's written guidelines.