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|  | Subcontracts | Consultants |
| General Characteristics | * Institution or company
* Investigator(s) and other personnel are identified and assigned a specific level of effort
* Perform work as part of their institutional appointment and may use university facilities and resources
* Involved in programmatic decisions
 | * Experts acting outside the University hired to perform a service on the project; UNCG faculty/staff should not be listed as paid consultants on an UNCG project
* Do not have use of university facilities and resources
* Not involved in programmatic decisions
 |
| Budget  | * Required a detailed budget breakdown and written justification of all direct costs (e.g. salary, fringe, supplies).
* Indirect costs applied at the institution’s federally negotiated rate.
 | * Typically bills by the day or hour and flat rate for deliverables is acceptable.
* Includes all costs and paid directly to the consultant.
 |
| Compliance | * Flow-down of prime sponsor terms and conditions
 | * Generally not subject to monitoring or reporting requirements of the prime award
 |
| Prior Approvals | * Formalized agreement that requires a signed letter of intent from the subcontractor institution
 | * Formalized agreement not usually required
 |

As a very general guideline, subcontracts are typically set up for collaborations involving greater effort levels and corresondingly larger dollar amounts (e.g. >$20,000 total, for the subcontract). In contrast, consultants are typically paid to complete focused tasks that require smaller total support (e.g. $400 to $600 per day). The exact amount of support for any external work will depend on the scope of the project and the rules of the sponsor; for example, the NSF caps consultant pay at no more than $634/day (<https://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/salary_ad_rates.jsp>).