Clemson University Research Faculty and Postdoctoral Researcher Support Grants
(CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS)
2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

The CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS program expands Clemson University’s research capacity by providing grants to assist faculty, academic departments, colleges, centers, and institutes in the hiring and training of qualified new research faculty and postdoctoral researchers. Researchers may be hired to promote collaborative and creative interdisciplinary activities, research, and demonstration projects with the goal of pursuing a large funding opportunity, and/or building a major research program or a research center. The proposal should address the larger benefit of the position to Clemson University, specifically how it will advance one or more of the ClemsonForward strategic innovation clusters: advanced materials; cyberinfrastructure and big data science; energy, transportation and advanced manufacturing; human resilience; health innovation; and the sustainable environment. The duration for CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS grants is a maximum of two years. At the end of the two-year period, the position is expected to be fully supported by externally funded grants and/or the department(s)/colleges.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals. An individual can apply as PI or Co-PI on only one proposal of this type each year.

Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs and staff, are not eligible to lead projects but may be included in research teams.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

LIMITATION ON SUBMISSIONS

Each college may be the lead on two proposals, which can be either single-college or multi-college. A single-college proposal involves faculty from only one college. A multi-college proposal involves faculty from two or more colleges. Multi-college submissions are highly encouraged.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS

- Funding is available for a maximum of two years, to begin on or after July 1, 2021.
- **The cost-share requirement will be removed for the 2021 cycle, but it is still allowable and highly encouraged.** Matches may come from individual faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or a combination of the sources.
- Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/college to transfer the cash match to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds, if applicable, and to the Division of Research.
• Funds cannot be used to support current research faculty and postdocs employed by Clemson University, or to supplant existing externally funded research grants.
• Research faculty or postdoctoral researchers must be hired within one year of grant award following the requirements in the Faculty Manual and the by-laws of the home department for a new hire.
• Research faculty or postdoctoral researcher candidates must hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent) or have completed all the degree requirements at the time of employment.
• In the event the PI leaves the University during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.
• No-cost extensions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances. Second no-cost extensions will not be granted.
• Expenditure of these funds must follow State procurement guidelines. State money cannot be used for personal gain (i.e., books, recordings [CDs, DVDs, etc.]) by which the author receives ANY portion of funds directly.
• All income received from sales are considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Vice President for Research (VPR) and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF).

DELIVERABLES
Awards from the CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS program must be used for the purposes identified in the proposal. The PI is required to submit a brief [2 pages] mid-term progress report at the end of the first year to request and receive the funding for the second year, and a final report [4 pages] summarizing the impact of the hire and the accomplishments achieved. Reports must be emailed to rifunds@clemson.edu with the subject line: LAST NAME_2021 CU FELLOWS_MID-TERM REPORT or LAST NAME_2021 CU FELLOWS_FINAL REPORT.

Awardees of R-Initiative funding are expected to present at the Research Symposium.

APPLICATION PREPARATION
Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and proposal instructions will be returned without review.

Format all documents using 12-point Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file (LAST NAME_2021 CU Fellows_Proposal.pdf) with the following ordered sections:

A. Cover Sheet [1 page]
The official R-Initiatives Cover Sheet must be used and include:
• A clear and concise project title (CU Fellows: Project Title),
• The names of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators, including graduate and undergraduate students, should be listed along with departmental and college affiliations; additional personnel may be listed on a separate page if not enough space is provided in the cover sheet,
• Center affiliations, if applicable,
• Total budget amount,
• Indication of prior R-Initiative funding, and
• Anticipated deliverables.

B. Need and Vision [5 pages]
Explain the need for the proposed position, how it will enhance the research portfolio of a group of PIs, department(s), college(s), center(s) and institute(s), or combination thereof, and the goals and vision for the proposed position. The proposal should address the larger benefit of the position to Clemson University, specifically how it will advance one or more of the ClemsonForward strategic research focus areas: advanced materials; cyberinfrastructure and big data science; energy, transportation and advanced manufacturing; human resilience; health innovation; and the sustainable environment. Additionally, the proposal should address how this position adds value to the University beyond hiring and training.

Provide details on the specific research to be conducted, and activities including proposal submissions, expected of the new hire.

List the mentor(s) for the new hire and the name of the primary supervisor. Identify the home department where the position is to be established.

Provide a proposed timeline to include the identification and hiring of the employee.

C. Sustainability Plan [2 pages]
Describe the training and mentoring that the researcher will receive to enable him/her to become fully supported at the end of the two-year grant period.

D. Budget and Budget Justification [2 pages] – NSF or NIH Format
The budget should show the details of the proposed total hiring cost (salary range to be offered for the position) and the distribution of the cost between the Division of Research and the proposal team, if applicable.

E. [OPTIONAL] Documentation of Cash Match Commitments and Other Resources
Provide commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including their source(s). Provide a list of any other University cash support available for the proposal. Matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on another federal project, space, equipment, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. Matching funds must be available during the project period.

If the faculty team is already funded by other college or University-level seed funding initiatives (e.g., TIGER, FRDP, OYA, ADR Research Awards in the College of Education, Brooks Sports Science Institute, etc.), a copy of the funded proposal and its budget from the other initiative should be included in this section. Include a clear, specific justification of why additional funding is needed and how it will be used to increase the competitiveness of the proposal.

F. Biographical Sketches [2 pages]
Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI, and all Co-PI(s), collaborators and key personnel.

G. List of Potential Reviewers (4 max.) with E-Mail Addresses [optional]
Faculty from Clemson University may be listed. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

TIMELINE
January 12, 2021 Solicitation announced
February 24, 2021 Proposals due
March 26, 2021 Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
Proposals are accepted until February 24, 2021. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30 p.m., February 24, 2021 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee will provide inter-disciplinary perspectives to evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research. External reviewers may be used, if needed. The proposal must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

Evaluation Criteria:
- The need and vision for the position
- Long-term sustainability plan
- Potential impact on Clemson research, scholarship, and extramural funding
- Impact on ClemsonForward strategic innovation clusters
- Cash cost-share to be provided for the position

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for award must have received all required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS
Questions about CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS can be directed to Kelly McSwain at rifunds@clemson.edu, 864-656-0260, in the Division of Research.