



**Clemson University Research Faculty and Postdoctoral Researcher Support Grants
[CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS]
2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

SUMMARY

The **CLEMSON RESEARCH FELLOWS (CU FELLOWS)** initiative assists 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 research center. Funds can only be requested and cost-shared for the salary and fringe of the proposed researcher. The award period for the **CU FELLOWS** initiative is up to two years. At the end of the award period, the position is expected to be fully supported by externally funded grants and/or the department(s)/colleges.

Funding amount:	As appropriate and justified
Proposal deadline:	November 11, 2022 @ 4:30 PM
Funding period:	2 years, beginning on the hire date

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured or tenure-track faculty and research faculty are eligible to serve as PIs on proposals. Postdocs, staff, and emeritus, adjunct, or visiting faculty are not eligible to serve as PIs on proposals but may be included in research teams.

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

An individual can apply as PI or Co-PI on only one **CU Fellows** proposal each year. A proposal must have a single PI. Other team members can be listed as Co-PI, Co-I, Collaborator, etc.

A college may submit two proposals with that college as the lead to be reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Preliminary selection of these proposals will be conducted by the college's Associate Dean for Research.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

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

All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must have completed InfoEd routing and be submitted to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) by **4:30 p.m. on November 11, 2022**. *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 signatures at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

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

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:

A. Cover Sheet [1 page]

The following items must be included:

- A clear, concise project title (CU Fellows: Project Title)
- The names and college/departmental/school affiliations of the PI, co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Total budget amount
- An indication of whether the PI has been a previous recipient of R-Initiative funding; if yes, include the year of funding and the initiative (e.g., 2020 CU Fellows)
- Anticipated deliverables

B. Need and Vision [3 pages]

Explain the need for the proposed position; how the proposed position will enhance the research portfolio of a group of PIs, department(s)/school(s), college(s), center(s) and institute(s), or combination thereof; and the goals and vision for the proposed position. Address the larger benefit of the position to Clemson University and Clemson's strategic priorities. Explain how the proposed position will add value to the University beyond hiring and training. Provide details on the specific activities, including research and proposal submissions, to be conducted by 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 [1 page]

Describe the training and mentoring that the new 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]

Provide a budget justification in NSF or NIH format for all items requested. Funds should be requested for hiring a researcher who is not currently affiliated with Clemson University. If cost share is included, provide a clear breakdown of the cost-share funds and sources. Only salary and fringe for the proposed researcher can be requested and cost shared. All other items, (visa, travel, startup, ect.) are the responsibility of the department and should not be included in the budget.

E. Biographical Sketches [3 pages max, each]

Submit Biosketches in [NSF](#) or [NIH](#) format for the PI, Co-PI(s), collaborators, and key personnel.

F. [OPTIONAL] Documentation of Cost Share

Provide commitment emails or letters for the cost-share funds, if included.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Cost share is not required but highly encouraged, and it will be considered in the selection process. Cost-share contributions may only go toward the salary and fringe of the proposed

researcher being hired. These funds may come from faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, schools, colleges, or a combination of these sources. Cost-share funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable as cost-share funds are costs on other federal projects, supplies on hand, etc. Please specify the specific cost-share source/chart string in the budget justification. Cost-share fund sources not allowable are Fund 18, Fund 20, Fund 22, and Fund 25. The cost-share funds must be available during the project period.

The grant period is two years, beginning on the hire date. 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. 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.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks of proposal submission. The Division of Research will consider up to two proposals from each college, as determined by the PI's primary appointment. A review committee, including external reviewers if needed, will evaluate the proposals. The proposal must be written in a clear, concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The need and vision for the position(s)
- Long-term sustainability plan
- Potential impact on Clemson research, scholarship, and extramural funding

Priority consideration will be given to requests that include cost-share commitments.

AWARD INFORMATION

Funds will be available to PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/school/college to transfer the cost-share funds (if applicable) to individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once cost-share funds (if applicable) are transferred. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to the original source, either via those providing cost-share funds or the Division of Research.

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 applications selected for an award must receive the required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated. All income received from sales is considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Vice President for Research and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF).

No-cost extensions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances.

DELIVERABLES & FINAL REPORT

A mid-term report and a final report must be submitted via the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>). A copy of all deliverables will be requested with the final report. Instructions will be sent to PIs via email upon award acceptance. The mid-term report must be submitted at the end of the first year to request and receive the funding for the second year. Teams who fail to submit their final reports will be ineligible for future R-Initiative funding.

QUESTIONS

Questions about the R-Initiative should be directed to rifunds@clemson.edu.