



**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FACULTY AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER
SUPPORT GRANTS
[CU FELLOWS]
2024–2025 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

SUMMARY

The **Clemson University Research Faculty and Postdoctoral Researcher Support Grants (CU FELLOWS)** assist faculty, academic departments, colleges, centers, and institutes in recruiting, hiring, and training qualified new research faculty and postdoctoral researchers who are not currently affiliated with Clemson University. Researchers may be hired to carry out collaborative and creative interdisciplinary activities, research, or demonstration projects, with the goal of pursuing a large funding opportunity and/or building a major research program or research center. Deliverables include a sustained fellow position.

Funding amount:	As appropriate and justified
Proposal deadline:	Monday, October 28, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Funding period:	Two 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 may apply as PI or Co-PI on only one CU Fellows proposal each year. A proposal must have a single PI. Other team members must be listed as Co-PI, Co-I, Collaborator, etc.

Each college may submit two proposals as the lead for funding consideration by the Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Endeavors. Preliminary proposal down-selection at the college level will be conducted by the respective associate dean for research (ADR) offices. Please reach out to your ADR to inquire about the college-level down-selection process.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Allowable Costs

The only allowable costs are salary and fringe benefits for the new hire.

Cost Share

Cost sharing is not required but highly encouraged and will be considered in the selection process. Cost-share contributions may only go toward the salary and fringe benefits of the proposed researcher being hired. These funds may come from faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, schools, colleges, or a combination of these sources. All other items (visa, travel, startup, etc.) are the department's responsibility and should not be included in the



budget. Cost-share funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable cost-share funds are costs on other federal projects, supplies on hand, etc. 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.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

InfoEd Routing

The Clemson University Office of Sponsored Programs uses InfoEd to route and monitor research funding requests. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must complete InfoEd routing. PIs must coordinate with their OSP Support Centers as they normally would for an external submission. PIs are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signatures no later than two business days before the deadline to ensure electronic signatures are received on time. Only those proposals that have completed the InfoEd routing process and are marked as “R-Initiative Applied” by the deadline will be reviewed.

InfoReady Submission

PIs must submit their application to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) by 4:30 p.m. on October 28, 2024.

Proposals that do not comply with guidelines will be returned without review.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Cover Sheet Information

Enter the following information into the InfoReady text fields:

- Project title beginning with **CU FELLOWS: [Proposal Title]**
- Name and college/department/school affiliations of the PI
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Name and email address of departmental fiscal officer
- Total Division of Research (DoR) budget request amount
- Total cost share
- Total overall budget amount (DoR + cost share)
- Prior R-Initiative funding. If the PI has prior R-I funding awards, provide the year of funding and the initiative (e.g., 2020 CU Fellows) and the associated proposal processing number (PPN; found in InfoEd)
- Anticipated deliverables

Proposal

Submit the proposal in InfoReady as a single PDF using 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8½ x 11-inch paper size. The PDF should include the following components:



A. Project Description [3 pages]

- Explain the need and vision for the proposed position and how it will enhance the research portfolio of a group of PIs, department(s)/school(s), college(s), center(s), institute(s), or combination thereof.
- Explain how the proposed position will advance Clemson University's strategic priorities.
- Provide details on the proposed new hire's activities, including research and proposal submissions.
- List the proposed new hire's mentor(s) and primary supervisor.
- Identify the home department for the position.
- Provide a proposed timeline that includes the identification and hiring of the employee.

B. Sustainability Plan [1 page]

Describe the training and mentoring that the new hire will receive to enable him/her to become fully supported at the end of the two-year grant period.

C. Budget and Budget Justification [2 pages]

- Provide the internal budget prepared by your college's Office of Sponsored Programs pre-award office. This budget will include cost share, if applicable. If cost share is included, provide a clear breakdown of the cost-share funds and sources. Specify each cost-share source/chart string.
- Provide a budget justification using the R-Initiative Budget Justification Template.

D. Documentation of Cost Share [No page limit]

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

E. Biosketch [Page limit determined by format]

Submit a biosketch for each PI, Co-PI, and senior personnel. Allowable formats include the R-Initiative Biosketch Template, NSF, or NIH.

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 of relevant faculty peers and staff will evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

- Need and vision for the position
- Foundational integration of Clemson's strategic priorities
- Potential impact on Clemson research, scholarship, and extramural funding
- Long-term sustainability plan
- Appropriateness of proposed deliverables
- Budget and inclusion of cost share

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



AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Initiation and Close-Out

An individual project account will be established by the Division of Research using the PI's department number. The account will be set up and managed in the college, while the Division of Research will provide coordinating oversight. The PI will work with his/her department/school/college to transfer the cost-share funds (if applicable) to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will become active 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 those providing cost-share funds or the Division of Research). In the event the PI leaves Clemson during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.

Expenditure of Funds

Expenditure of R-Initiative award 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.

Research Compliance Requirements

All applications selected for an award must receive the required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

Reviewer Requirement

Awardees will be called upon to serve as relevant reviewers for future R-Initiative competitions.

Project Income Policy

All income received from sales is considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF). Guidelines surrounding royalties can be found in the Clemson University Intellectual Property Policy and should be followed accordingly.

No-Cost Extensions

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

DELIVERABLES AND REPORTS

CU FELLOWS requires a midterm report and a final report. Both must be submitted via the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/>) Awarded PIs will receive automated emails from InfoReady with access links to the reporting portal and materials two months prior to the end of each funding year.



Year 1 Midterm Report

A midterm report must be submitted by the end of the first year of funding. Year 2 funding is contingent upon the submission of the midterm report.

Year 2 Final Report

Submission of a final report is required and is due two months after the end of the funding period. A copy of all deliverables will be requested with the final report. Teams who fail to submit their reports will be ineligible for future R-Initiative funding.

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In the event that the PI leaves Clemson during the reporting period, the reporting requirement will fall on the project team.

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge that the project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiatives.

QUESTIONS

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to rifunds@clemson.edu.