



**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY-SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY
GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT INITIATIVE
[CU-SRNL GSS]
2025–2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

SUMMARY

The **Clemson University-Savannah River National Laboratory Graduate Student Support (CU-SRNL GSS) Initiative** assists faculty, academic departments, colleges, centers, and institutes in recruiting, hiring, and training qualified graduate student researchers. Hired students will be trained as the next generation of workers to meet the SRNL's needs, as well as to collaborate with SRNL scientists to attract competitive research funding from federal agencies and industries.

Funding amount:	\$30,000/year + \$10,000 single distribution research funds + GAD waived
Proposal deadline:	Monday, November 3, 2025, at 4:30 PM
Funding period:	Two years, beginning on the start 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.

Both master's and doctoral level graduate students are eligible to receive support. The initiative is open to both new and currently enrolled graduate students who are US Citizens.

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 proposal each year. A proposal must have a single PI. Other team members must be listed as Co-PI, Co-I, Collaborator, etc. An SRNL team member must be included on the project team as a mentor for the graduate student.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Allowable Costs

The only allowable costs are salary and fringe benefits for the graduate student and research expenses including materials and supplies, travel, and other costs.

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 before final submission in InfoReady. 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 a pre-award grants coordinator by the deadline will be reviewed.

InfoReady Submission

PIs must submit their application for funding consideration to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal <https://clemson.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1990735>

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-SRNL GSS: [Proposal Title]**
- Name, affiliations, City, State, Country of birth and Citizenship background of the PI, Co-PI(s), and senior personnel.
- 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 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 max]

- Describe the project the student will participate in, the research activities conducted, and how those activities will increase and enhance collaboration between Clemson and SRNL.
- Explain how the proposed work will align with Clemson and SRNL's strategic priorities.
- Detail how the graduate student will work under the guidance of both Clemson and SRNL researchers.
- List the student's mentor(s) and primary supervisors at Clemson and SRNL.
- Identify the home department for the student.

B. Bibliography [No page limit – do not use the bibliography to supplement information from the project description]

C. Training and Mentoring Plan [1 page max]

Describe the training and mentoring that the graduate student will receive between Clemson and SRNL during the two-year grant period.

D. Budget and Budget Justification [No page limit]

- 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 line-item budget justification detailing relevant allowable costs within the proposed budget.

E. Documentation of Cost Share [No page limit]

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

F. Letter of Commitment [No page limit]

Provide a letter of commitment from the SRNL mentor detailing their involvement in training the graduate student.

G. Biosketches [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. A committee comprised of relevant CU and SRNL reviewers will evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

- Need and vision for the graduate student
- Increased collaboration between Clemson and SRNL
- Foundational integration of Clemson and SRNL strategic priorities
- Training and mentorship plan
- Budget and inclusion of cost share

Priority consideration will be given to requests that include cost-sharing 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 by the Division of Research. 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.

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-SRNL GSS requires quarterly financial reports, a Year 1 midterm report, and a Year 2 final report. All reports 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 one month prior to quarterly report deadlines, and two months prior to the end of each funding year.

Quarterly reports

Quarterly financial reports will be required detailing hiring/start date confirmations and expenditures to date.

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.

Additional reporting may be necessary depending on state reporting requirements.

Teams who fail to submit final reports will be ineligible for future R-Initiative funding.

If the PI leaves Clemson during the award period, the team must request a change of PI before the PI's departure. If 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 project manager Shannon Garrity, at Garrit5@Clemson.edu.