



Clemson University Industry Research Initiative for Postdoctoral Researchers CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SUMMARY

The Clemson University Industry Research Initiative for Postdoctoral Researchers (CU-IRIP) program is intended to promote and support industry research experiences for postdoctoral researchers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). The CU-IRIP program provides funding to an eligible applicant in an amount up to \$50,000 per new sponsored project in a STEM field and funded by a for-profit company to support salary and fringe benefits for a postdoctoral researcher.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty at Clemson University who are submitting a new proposal to a for-profit company for a sponsored project in a STEM field to be funded by the for-profit company are eligible to submit applications to this program. Any such tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty who have an ownership, equity, or other financial interest in a for-profit company are not eligible to submit applications to this program for a project funded by that company.

Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as staff and postdoctoral researchers, are not eligible to lead projects.

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

AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The CU-IRIP program will provide funding to an eligible applicant in an amount up to \$50,000 per new sponsored project in a STEM field and funded by a for-profit company to support salary and fringe benefits for a postdoctoral researcher. The CU-IRIP funding cannot be used to support a previously submitted or awarded proposal. The CU-IRIP funding must be used only for a postdoctoral researcher's salary and fringe benefits. A review committee will review and approve applications for this funding. The project budget for the for-profit company sponsored project must be no less than \$100,000 total costs, including applicable direct and indirect costs but excluding the CU-IRIP funding, to be paid by the for-profit company sponsor. The CU-IRIP funding must be spent within one (1) year after the sponsored project award date.

An eligible applicant may submit only one (1) application for this CU-IRIP funding per for-profit company sponsor. For example, an eligible applicant intending to submit more than one proposal to Company A in the same or future years may only apply for the CU-IRIP funding for one proposal. If an eligible applicant intends to submit a proposal to Company A and a separate proposal to Company B, the applicant may apply for the CU-IRIP funding for both proposals. For clarification, no one participating on the eligible applicant's research team is eligible to apply separately for funding under the CU-IRIP program for a sponsored project proposal to the same company to which the eligible applicant is submitting a proposal and requesting CU-IRIP program funding.

Applications for this CU-IRIP funding will be accepted at any time. However, this Program is subject to availability of funds and may be canceled at any time at the discretion of the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors.

The following policies are applicable:

- A “sponsored project” means an externally funded project requiring a proposal and budget to be routed for internal approvals and an award agreement to be executed by the University. A sponsored project does not include a student course, including Creative Inquiry and capstone/senior design courses, or fee-for-service activities. For clarification, a sponsored project for the purpose of the CU-IRIP program does not include a project to be funded by a federal agency, state government, or non-profit entity, even if the funding is to be awarded to a for-profit entity as the prime awardee with Clemson as a subawardee (e.g., SBIR/STTR opportunities).
- Funding from the CU-IRIP program can only be used to support salary and fringe benefits for postdoctoral researchers who are Clemson University employees.
- Priority consideration is given to eligible applicants who may not have large start-up packages, significant financial research support and resources, or a prior sponsored project awarded by a for-profit sponsor.
- Priority consideration is given to sponsored projects to be funded by a for-profit company with headquarters or facilities in South Carolina and that qualifies as a small business¹.
- Researchers may be required to present annually on the progress of their project, subject to terms and conditions of the sponsored project award. This may occur at the annual Division of Research Symposium or a similar event.
- Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, “This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program.”
- For any award with funding from the CU-IRIP program, the for-profit sponsor will be required to accept Clemson’s standard Industry Sponsored Project Agreement terms and conditions for intellectual property and publications.
- Funding from this R-Initiative may not be combined with funding or support from other R-Initiatives.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon. Applications that are not in compliance with the following requirements and instructions may be returned without review.

The application should be submitted as a single PDF file labeled CU-IRIP Program_Project Title with the following ordered sections:

A. Cover Page

The cover page must include a clear and concise title (CU-IRIP Program: Project Title). The names and appointments of the PI and Co-PIs should be listed, along with their department affiliations and contact information. Include postdoctoral researcher name, department, and

¹ A “small business” is typically defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees; however, there are exceptions. For further information on Small Business Size Regulations, see 13 CFR Part 121 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/chapter-I/part-121>).

email address (if known at the time of the application). Include center affiliations if applicable. Include name, address, and contact person (if available), including name and email address, for the intended for-profit sponsor.

B. Project Description (two-page limit – format this section using 12-pt. Times New Roman font, single line spacing, one-inch margins, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size)

- **Summary of Project Scope**
Briefly describe project objectives, expected outcomes, and anticipated timeline. Include brief description of the for-profit company to which applicant intends to submit the sponsored project proposal, including whether it has headquarters or facilities located in South Carolina and whether it qualifies as a small business.
- **Potential Impact**
Briefly describe the impact of the project for the project team members' research and scholarship endeavors and how the project will further enhance industry research experiences for the postdoctoral researcher in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).
- **Project Background**
Briefly describe applicant's discussions to date, if any, with the for-profit company regarding the sponsored project proposal, including the company's interest in funding the proposal, if known. Briefly describe any prior sponsored projects awarded by or any other prior engagements (e.g. fee-for-service work) the applicant has had with the for-profit company to which applicant intends to submit the sponsored project proposal. Briefly describe applicant's funding profile including start-up packages, other financial research support and resources, and prior sponsored projects awarded by a for-profit sponsor.
- **Additional Information (optional)**
Include any other information for the committee's consideration.

C. Budget and Justification

Provide requested budget up to \$50,000 in table format (to include salary and fringe for the postdoctoral researcher) and include a brief justification for how the funding will support the postdoctoral researcher participating in the sponsored project to be funded by a for-profit company. Do not include indirect costs (i.e. Facilities & Administrative (F&A) costs) in the budget for the CU-IRIP funding.

D. Biographical Sketches [2-page NSF or NIH format]

Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI and Co-PI(s).

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Applications to the CU-IRIP program will be accepted any time, but all applications must be submitted to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemson.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1952168>) at least ninety (90) business days prior to the anticipated start date of the sponsored project to be funded by a for-profit sponsor. Applicants will receive confirmation that the submission has been received and the submission will be routed to the review committee for evaluation. The application will be evaluated within thirty (30) business days of receipt. Applicants who are awarded funding under this program will receive a Letter

of Commitment if the application is approved by the review committee for funding and must submit the sponsored project proposal to the for-profit sponsor within three (3) months after receiving the Letter of Commitment. Submission of the sponsored project proposal means that the proposal narrative and budget have been submitted through the applicant's college pre-award office with all InfoEd approvals complete. A CU-IRIP program award is contingent upon the sponsored project being awarded by the for-profit sponsor. No CU-IRIP program funding will be distributed to the applicant until the sponsored project is awarded. If CU-IRIP program funding is awarded for a sponsored project award that is terminated early by the for-profit sponsor, the CU-IRIP program funding that has not been expended at the time of the sponsored project award termination must be returned to the Division of Research.

REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A review committee will evaluate the applications and make award recommendations to the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors. The review committee may consult with external subject matter experts as needed.

Evaluation Criteria:

- ✓ Potential for significant impact to enhance industry research experiences for the postdoctoral researcher in the STEM fields
- ✓ Application demonstrates a clear purpose to advance sponsored project activities with a for-profit company
- ✓ Feasibility of the proposed project and its significance
- ✓ Applicant's funding profile (e.g. start-up packages, other financial research support and resources, any prior sponsored projects awarded by a for-profit sponsor)
- ✓ For-profit sponsor's profile (e.g. South Carolina company? Small business? Prior sponsored projects with Clemson?)
- ✓ Probability of leading to follow-on industry research funding or industry employment opportunities for the postdoctoral researcher

DELIVERABLES

Awardees must submit a final report within thirty (30) calendar days after the term of the sponsored project award via the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (<https://clemsontech4.com/>) and include a discussion of what was accomplished and how the project has or will contribute to the applicant's future research and scholarship endeavors with a for-profit company and how the project enhanced industry research experiences for the postdoctoral researcher in the STEM fields.

QUESTIONS

Questions should be directed to JoAnna Floyd at cuic@clemsontech4.com, or 864-656-3989, in the Division of Research.