

## 2020 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY SEED FUND

### UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA OFFICE OF RESEARCH

- For FY 2020, 50% of the awards will be in the Biomedical Sciences. The remaining 50% of awards will cover other disciplines.
- Proposals must be submitted both through UFIRST and InfoReady Review (IRR)(<https://ufresearch.infoready4.com/#> )
- All proposals must be submitted to the Office of Research at or before **5 p.m. Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

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The Research Opportunity Seed Fund targets multidisciplinary, faculty-initiated research projects with potential for extramural support. The program focuses on **new projects and/or new collaborative partnerships.**

Projects should be innovative, have strong potential for garnering future funding from external sources, or have outstanding commercial potential. Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards are not intended to support on-going projects -- **they should support new projects (not a supplement to current research) and/or new collaborative partnerships. The proposal must emphasize novel research.** To be competitive, proposals must be multi-/interdisciplinary and must involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges (see [Review Criteria](#) for more information on this criterion). Single-investigator proposals are not eligible. Proposals involving hypothesis-driven research should clearly and explicitly state the hypothesis. Proposals for equipment are allowed if the funds will be used for instrument development. The need for seed funding must be critical for the execution of the project.

Proposals may be submitted by any UF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency (see Policy on Eligibility to Submit a Proposal for External Funding: <https://research.ufl.edu/dsp/proposals/eligibility-to-submit-a-proposal-for-external-funding.html> ). Courtesy, Adjunct, Visiting and OPS faculty; Assistant In, Associate In, Senior Associate In; Research Associates; and Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible to be PIs on Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards. They may participate as co-PIs or co-investigators. To avoid potential conflicts of interest in the selection process, Deans at all levels (Assistant, Associate, etc.) are not eligible to participate.

### SUBMISSION PROCESS

A two-step review process for the 2020 Research Opportunity Seed Fund will be implemented:

- 1) To increase the participation and input of the colleges in the selection process, each college will select its best proposals through an internal screening process. Faculty interested in applying to the Research Opportunity Seed Fund should contact their Associate Dean for Research, for information on their college's internal selection procedures and deadline.
- 2) Proposals selected by the colleges will be submitted to the Office of Research and will undergo a uniform and centrally coordinated scientific review by ad-hoc faculty panels.

The number of proposals submitted by each college is based upon each college's extramural award performance in the previous fiscal year. **The maximum number of proposals allocated to each college for the 2020 competition is provided below:**

<b>Total Awards Received (FY 2018-2019)</b>	<b># Proposals Allocated</b>	<b>Colleges</b>
< \$5M	1 per college	Business; Fine Arts; Journalism & Communications; Design, Construction & Planning Law; Nursing; Center for Latin American Studies*; Libraries*
\$5M - 10M	2 per college	Florida Museum of Natural History; Health & Human Performance;
\$10 - 25M	3 per college	Dentistry; Pharmacy; Veterinary Medicine; Medicine-Jacksonville;
\$25 - 50M	4 per college	Liberal Arts and Sciences; Public Health & Health Professions; Education;
\$75 - 100M	6 per college	Engineering
\$150 - 200M	8 per college	Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
\$200-250M	9 per college	Medicine-Gainesville

\*Only faculty tenured in the Center for Latin American Studies and Libraries, respectively, may be PIs on proposal(s) submitted by these units.

*Please note:*

1. The system of allocation determines how many proposals may be submitted by each college to the Office of Research. There is no college-based allocation system for awards - these will be merit based, as recommended by faculty review panels. Panels will employ the primary/secondary/tertiary reviewer process. **For FY 2020, 50% of the awards will be in the Biomedical Sciences. The remaining 50% of awards will cover other disciplines.**

2. The allocated number of proposals designates the maximum number of proposals that may be submitted by a college with its faculty as the PI. There are no restrictions on the number of proposals on which faculty can serve as co-PI.
3. The proposal allocations per college are reviewed annually and adjusted based upon each college's extramural award performance in the preceding fiscal year.
4. The method and schedule by which each college selects its allotted number of proposals for submission to the Office of Research is at the discretion of the college. The deadline for submission of each college's Research Opportunity Seed Fund proposals to the Office of Research through UFIRST & IRR is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
5. **All Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards will be administered over a two-year period. No-cost extensions are not encouraged.**
6. PIs who received Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards are not allowed to submit another Research Opportunity Seed Fund proposal as the PI for two years after completion of the first award. For example- A 2016 Research Opportunity Seed fund award will end in June 2018. The PI of this award cannot submit another proposal until the 2020 competition (announced by the Office of Research in fall 2019).

## **FULL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

### **(FOR SUBMISSION THROUGH UFIRST & IRR TO THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH)**

Faculty interested in submitting proposals to the Research Opportunity Seed Fund should contact the Associate Dean for Research for information on their college's internal selection procedures and deadline.

**Each college's selected proposals must be submitted both through UFIRST and InfoReady Review (IRR)(<https://ufresearch.infoready4.com/#>) as a single pdf document.**

**The deadline for submission of full proposals through UFIRST and InfoReady Review (IRR) is by 5 p.m. Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** Proposals must be uploaded in PDF format only as ONE file (name file: 2020\_OppFund\_PI last name). PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD DRAFTS, SCANNED FILES OR MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

**The title of the proposal submitted MUST start with OR-DRPD-ROF2020: XXX. The Sponsor will be UF Office of Research (GM0006982). The FOA# should be listed as UF-ROF2020.**

For Proposals submitted through UFIRST, please ensure that departmental and dean's office signatures for faculty contributing time are obtained on the UFIRST Smartform, as for any external proposal.

Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence (submitted as ONE pdf file, NO SCANNED COPIES):

1. Cover Page: Please ensure that the cover page provides requested information in [this format](#). Please do not submit a cover letter.
2. Abstract. Explain the rationale for the work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by an “intelligent non-expert.”
3. Project Description. Up to five (5) pages of text MAXIMUM describing the project. If proposals are longer than 5 pages, only the first 5 pages will be reviewed. The project description should be written such that it can be understood by an interdisciplinary faculty committee. PIs must keep in mind that their proposals are not being evaluated by a discipline-specific committee, but rather by an interdisciplinary one. Project description to include the following:
  - Specific Aims/Objectives
  - Background and Significance
  - Innovation/Potential Impact of Research
  - Approach/Research Design
  - Preliminary Data (if applicable)
4. References Cited (no page limit)
5. Key Personnel. A list of the individuals to be involved and details of their participation (no page limit).
6. A detailed budget and justification of expenses.
  - Budgets should not exceed \$100,000 for the entire project period; most awards will be for less.
  - A brief justification of the need for support from Research Opportunity Seed Fund is required.
  - The budget may include all normally allowable costs of research with the **exception of faculty salaries and indirect costs**. The percent effort of each participating faculty member must be included in the budget justification. Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards are to be expended on campus and are not to be used for the purchase of standard pieces of equipment. Exceptions will be allowed in instances where specific techniques/equipment to be used in the research are not available on campus. There are no Indirect Costs associated with Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards.
  - Budgets may be for a period of up to two years. Awards will be administered for up to two years and extensions are NOT encouraged.
  - A specific start date should be given (the earliest start date is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020). **If no start date is specified, the Office of Research will assume a start date of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**
7. Plans for continued support and/or commercial potential.
  - Plans to obtain continuing external support for the project (1-2 pages). Proposals must specifically list the sources of external support that will be

pursued following the seed money provided by the Research Opportunity Seed Fund; **and/or**,

- If applicable – a description of the commercial potential, including a statement of potential market size and how the funding could increase the marketability of the technology. Commercial potential is not a requirement for funding, nor is it a review criterion.
8. A current biosketch of the Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs/Co-Investigators (NIH- or NSF-style biosketch suggested) and a list of their currently funded research, including percent time commitment to each funded project (Maximum of 5 pages each).
  9. Appendices, if necessary to support the proposal, should be brief; please do not attach manuscripts or other lengthy documents.

Please keep in mind that proposals should be written in a manner appropriate for an interdisciplinary review panel.

**Each college's selected proposals must be submitted through UFIRST & IRR to the Office of Research by 5 p.m. Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** Proposals must be uploaded in PDF format only as ONE file (name file: 2020\_OppFund\_PI last name). PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD DRAFTS, SCANNED FILES OR MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE PROPOSAL.

Formatting requirements: Single spacing; font size no smaller than 11 point; minimum 0.5 inch margins; tables and figure legends can be in 10 point.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

Proposals submitted by the colleges to the Office of Research will be reviewed by ad-hoc faculty review panels. In addition, the UF Office of Technology Licensing will review, but not score, those proposals with commercial promise. The faculty review panels will make recommendations to the Vice President for Research and a decision will be finalized. Review criteria are posted on the Office of Research web site at <http://research.ufl.edu/opportunityfund.html>

## **DEADLINES**

Faculty interested in applying to the Research Opportunity Seed Fund should contact their Associate Dean for Research for information on their college's internal selection procedures and deadline. **The deadline for RECEIPT of college selected proposals through UFIRST and IRR is 5 p.m. Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

## **NOTIFICATION OF AWARD**

Every effort will be made to notify Principal Investigators of their award status by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **REPORTING**

Funding success related to the Research Opportunity Seed Fund award will be tracked. Two reports will be requested from the proposal PI. The first will be at the end of the two-year award period and the second three years after that. For example, a PI awarded in June 2016, will be asked to submit their first report in July 2018 and the second report in July 2021. Non-compliant PIs/colleges may not be allowed to submit future requests to Research Opportunity Seed Funds.

## **QUESTIONS**

College contact: Your Associate Dean for Research

Office of Research contacts:

Dr. Jeevan Jyot, [opportunityfund@research.ufl.edu](mailto:opportunityfund@research.ufl.edu)

Dr. Sobha Jaishankar, [sjaishan@ufl.edu](mailto:sjaishan@ufl.edu)