Seeding Excellence: OVPR Early Career Scholars
FY22 Request for Proposals – CCOM Only

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) seeks single investigator, one-year OVPR Early Career Scholars proposals with awards up to $30k. Successful applications will also receive individual grantsmanship consulting and support to visit program officers. The goal is to help CCOM tenure-track assistant professors revise a K-award proposal resulting in a competitive revised application. In FY22, it is anticipated that there will be 13 OVPR Early Career Scholars awards through the Seeding Excellence Initiative (SEI). **Note:** Applicants must attend the *Write Winning Grant Proposals* seminar, this year or last year, to be eligible. Seminar registration is due Sept. 12, 2021 (see Eligibility Criteria for details).

Seeding Excellence Initiative – OVPR Early Career Scholars
SEI, a two-year initiative, aims to sustain the continued growth of the campus research enterprise by providing competitive pilot funding in four strategic areas. The OVPR Early Career Scholars program, one of SEI’s four strategic areas, will invest in the success of the UI’s tenure-track assistant professors. SEI is made possible through funding to RDO from the public-private partnership (P3) Year 1 funding cycle.

OVPR Early Career Scholars Overview
The OVPR Early Career Scholars program aims to give junior faculty a boost in securing a K-award through acquisition of pilot data, grantsmanship consulting, and program officer networking opportunities. Award funds may be used to collect pilot data through activities such as core facility use, lab experiments, surveys, or implementation of pilot-scale trials. Using the pilot data, awardees will consult with a grantsmanship expert and program officers to develop and refine their K-award proposal.

Grantsmanship Consultant
Awardees will work with the Grant Writer’s Seminars and Workshops’ grantsmanship consultant. The consultation kicks off in Fall 2022 with a group activity where the OVPR Early Career Scholars critique their peer’s one-page overviews followed by four to six months of one-on-one grantsmanship consulting. The goal of this individual consulting activity is to improve the investigator’s grantsmanship skills, thus increasing their submission of competitive proposals for external funding.

Program Officer Visit
Awardees will travel to Washington, DC (or other location) to visit with relevant program officers. The goal of this visit is to discuss their research as it relates to agency priorities and build their program officer network. The trip will be facilitated by RDO.

Application Process
CCOM will devise their own competitive, peer-reviewed process for identifying prospective candidate(s). Each application must receive three reviews including substantive written critiques that will be provided to the applicant. CCOM will submit their recommended candidate(s) to OVPR for final consideration and approval. Please contact your collegiate Associate Dean for Research for details.

Eligibility Criteria
- Only tenure-track assistant professors, at the time of submission, are eligible.
- Applicants must be working a K-award revision.

Questions: Contact Aaron Kline ([aaron-kline@uiowa.edu](mailto:aaron-kline@uiowa.edu), 319-335-4142)
*Contact your Associate Dean for Research for internal competition details*
• Applicants must register for and attend the Write Winning Grant Proposals seminars on Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 2021 or have attended the Fall 2020 seminar. Registration deadline is September 12. This is a required prerequisite to work with the grantsmanship consultant.
• Priority will be given to applicants that have not received P3 funds from any source.
• Each college will run their own internal competition. Each college may have additional criteria for the internal competition. Please contact your Associate Dean for Research for collegiate details.

Required Award Outcomes
• Collect feasibility/pilot data that enables a competitive K-award.
• Complete grantsmanship consultations resulting in submission of the revised K-award.
• Travel to Washington, DC (or other location) to visit with program officers.
• Sustain research and scholarship through external funding submissions.

Budget
This program provides up to $30,000 in direct costs for a one-year period.
• Do not include costs for the grantsmanship consultant or program officer visit.
• Faculty and staff salary is not allowed.
• Student wages/stipends and graduate tuition are allowable.
• Travel to disseminate results is allowed but limited to one professional conference.
• Equipment is allowed if the unit price is ≤$5,000 and well justified.
• Expenditures over budget are the responsibility of the awardee’s home department.

Proposal Guidelines
All documents should be Arial 11-point font and 1” margins.
• Executive Summary (<250 words; non-technical abstract)
• Project Description (<1 page)
• Reviewer Comments
  o Applicants must upload their reviewer comments.
• Response to Review Comments (<1 page)
• References (no page limit)
• Budget Spreadsheet (use budget template)
• Budget Justification (<2 pages)
  o Line-item explanation of why the requested resources are needed.
• NIH or NSF-style biosketch for PI.
• Letters of Collaboration
  o NSF format must be used with no additional text allowed. All collaborations must be explained within the project narrative.

Review Criteria
Proposals will be peer reviewed by a group of collegiate researchers in an NIH-style review process. It is encouraged to write towards a lay audience. The proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:
• Is the response to review comments appropriate and responsive?
• Will the OVPR Early Career Scholars award significantly impact the applicant’s ability to secure a K-award?

Reporting Requirements

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A final project report regarding the research and scholarly advances as well as a draft external funding proposal must be submitted through InfoReady by February 3, 2023. Further, brief annual reports for three years following the award are required, which will only ask about number of proposals submitted/awarded, publications, and presentations.

**P3 Symposium**
Awardees of the SEI programs should expect to participate in future P3 Symposiums, which will highlight the outcomes associated with the UI’s P3 funding awards.

**FY22 Application Process and Timeline**
To apply, log in to the OVPR Early Career Scholars submission portal with your HawkID and password. Contact cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu / 319-384-3332, with submission portal questions.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBD by College</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10, 2021</td>
<td>Colleges Submit Recommendations to VPR</td>
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<td>Week of December 13, 2021</td>
<td>RDO Notifies Applicants</td>
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<td>January 14, 2022</td>
<td>Funds Available</td>
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<td>October 2022</td>
<td>Begin Grantsmanship Consultations</td>
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<td>Fall 2022</td>
<td>Meet with Program Officers</td>
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