Seeding Excellence: OVPR Early Career Scholars
FY22 Request for Proposals

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 tenure-track assistant professors develop a competitive proposal and secure an externally funded award. 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 external funding through acquisition of pilot data, grantsmanship consulting, preliminary research, and program officer networking opportunities. Award funds may be used to collect pilot data through activities such as core facility use, travel to archives, lab experiments, surveys, or implementation of pilot-scale trials. Using the pilot data or preliminary research, awardees will consult with a grantsmanship expert and program officers to develop and refine an external funding 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
Each college will devise their own competitive, peer-reviewed process for identifying prospective candidate(s) using this RFP’s Proposal Guidelines and Review Criteria. Each application must receive three reviews including substantive written critiques that will be provided to the applicant. Colleges will submit their recommended candidate(s) to OVPR for final consideration and approval. Please contact your collegiate Associate Dean for Research for details.

Questions: Contact Aaron Kline (aaron-kline@uiowa.edu, 319-335-4142)
*Contact your Associate Dean for Research for internal competition details*
Eligibility Criteria

- Only tenure-track assistant professors, at the time of submission, are eligible.
- 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 on October 15-16, 2020. Registration deadline for the 2021 seminar 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 competitive external funding proposals.
- Complete grantsmanship consultations resulting in external funding proposal submission.
- 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)
- Proposal Narrative (<3 pages)
  - Significance
    - Describe the important problem or barrier in the field. How does the proposed work affect current knowledge or practice?
  - Innovation
    - Describe the innovative, novel intellectual merit of the proposed work.
  - Approach
    - Describe and justify the research data, methods, and measures employed.
  - Evaluation
    - How is progress defined, measured, and evaluated?
    - Provide a timeline of activities and milestones.
- Sustainability Plan (<1 page)
  - Articulate the sustainability plan for the research (i.e., define federal or private funding targets including specific agencies, programs, grant solicitations, and program officers). How will this work contribute to success with each identified funding opportunity?
- References (no page limit)
- Budget Spreadsheet (use budget template)
- Budget Justification (<2 pages)

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Seeding Excellence: OVPR Early Career Scholars RFP
By Invitation Only*: Submission Portal

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- Line-item explanation of why the requested resources are needed.
- NIH or NSF-style biosketch for PI.
- Letters of Collaboration
  - 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:

- **Significance**
  - Does the proposal articulate an important problem and an ability to meaningfully impact current knowledge or practice?

- **Innovation/Impact**
  - Does the proposal articulate novel advances, discoveries, or technologies?

- **Approach**
  - Are the data, methods, measures, and overall approach well-articulated and viable?

- **Investigator**
  - Does this researcher have the required qualifications, accomplishments, and track record to accomplish the proposed work?

- **Sustainability**
  - Will this project contribute to the investigator obtaining an external proposal? Does the application articulate a compelling plan for securing extramural funding? Does it identify program officers and their fit for discussing research?

**Reporting Requirements**
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 Symposia, 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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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</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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<td>February 3, 2023</td>
<td>Final Project Report Due</td>
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