

OVPR Interdisciplinary Research Scholars Climate-Environment-Health Nexus FY22 Request for Proposals

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) seeks collaborative OVPR Interdisciplinary Research Scholars proposals for \$500k over two years. The proposals will focus on the Climate-Environment-Health Nexus defined as the intersection of climate, environment, and health challenges. The goal is to enable teams of researchers to respond to one of the most pressing societal challenges of our time.

Proposals must focus on a) societal challenge with long-term solutions and impacts and b) developing infrastructure that connects internal and external networks of researchers enabling the submission of large-scale external funding proposals. In FY22, it is anticipated that two awards will be made.

Seeding Excellence Initiative – OVPR Interdisciplinary Research 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 Interdisciplinary Research Scholars program, one of SEI's four strategic areas, will invest in the success of the University's research efforts in connecting researchers to combat societal challenges i.e., the climate-environment-health nexus. SEI is made possible through funding to RDO from the [public-private partnership](#) (P3) Year 1 funding cycle.

Eligibility Criteria

- Any area of creative or scholarly inquiry that explores the intersection of climate, environment, and health is welcome.
- **A majority of the proposing team must participate in the [UI-ISU Climate Change and Sustainability Innovation Labs](#). If they do not, proposals will be considered ineligible.**
- UI faculty or staff members for whom research and scholarship are assigned as one of their primary job responsibilities and have at least a 50% university appointment are eligible to be **Team Leaders**.
 - All other UI faculty and staff are eligible to be **Team Members** on proposals. Team Members make significant contributions but do not have overall responsibility and authority for the project.
- **Team Leaders** should have a successful track record of coordinating research activities among large teams.
- An individual may serve as a Team Leader on only one proposal but may be a Team Member on multiple proposals.

The Climate-Environment-Health Nexus

Successful proposals must address a research challenge focused on the intersection of climate, environment, and health. There is a large swath of campus with a passion for addressing climate change, sustainability, and resilience, broadly. The climate-environment-health nexus theme is a natural framework for uniting disparate campus research groups in a coordinated fashion to elevate the UI's research in this area, which will likely be a growing federal funding priority area in the future. Further, this theme provides an opportunity for every area of campus, including artists and humanist, to make

meaningful contributions and be impactful partners contributing to the University's societal impact, both locally and globally. For example, Iowa, as an agricultural/rural state, has seen the impact of the climate-environment-health nexus already with extreme weather's impact on the environment and personal/societal/physical and mental health issues (e.g., derecho, droughts, floods). Insights and lessons learned here can minimize these harmful impacts elsewhere.

Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Component

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are poised to change the way that research is conducted with an increasing focus from the federal government. Proposals are highly encouraged that include an artificial intelligence/machine learning component to enable transformational research in the climate-environment-health nexus arena.

Required Award Outcome

- Collect feasibility/pilot data that enables competitive external large-scale grant proposals.
- Sustainability of research through external grant submissions.
- Provide significant societal impact related to the climate-environment-health nexus.
- Develop internal and external infrastructure and networks that will enable long-term research activities.
- Awarded teams must participate in an annual Climate Change Research symposium to be coordinated by the Research Development Office.

Budget

The maximum award is **up to \$250k/year for two years** (\$500k total).

- A maximum of \$50k/year (plus fringe) is allowed for faculty salary support. The \$50k/year can be used for one faculty member or distributed across several faculty, but the total faculty personnel costs cannot exceed \$50k/year over the two-year period.
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. No limit.
- All program costs are allowable with rational justification.
 - Travel is allowed but only if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for convening meetings.
 - Equipment is allowable with appropriate justification.
- Expenditures over budget are the responsibility of the team leaders' home departments.

Proposal Guidelines

All documents should be Arial 11-point font and 1" margins.

1. Executive Summary (\leq 250 words; non-technical abstract)
2. Proposal Narrative sections to be included (\leq 8 pages)
 - a. Describe the innovative, novel intellectual merits of the proposed work that focuses on the intersection of climate, environment, and health.
 - b. Articulate the broader impacts/societal impacts of the proposed research.
 - c. Explain how the team plans to build infrastructure that connects internal and external networks to transform the current state of research in the proposed area.
 - d. Illustrate how the team plans to strategically engage historically excluded groups, early career faculty, artists, humanists, social scientists, and students.
 - e. Methods, Measures, and Metrics

Seeding Excellence: OVPR Interdisciplinary Scholars RFP
Application Deadline (June 1, 2022)
Submission Portal: [OVPR Interdisciplinary Scholars](#)



Research Development
Office

Reporting Requirements

A final project report regarding the research and scholarly advances and community impact as well as a draft external funding proposal must be submitted through InfoReady thirty days after the project end date. Further, brief annual reports for three years following the award are required, which will only ask about number of collaborations, proposals submitted/awarded, publications, and presentations.

P3 Symposium

Awardees of the SEI programs shall expect to participate in future P3 Symposiums, which will highlight the outcomes associated with the UI's P3 funding mechanism.

FY 22 Application Process and Timeline

To apply, log in to the OVPR Interdisciplinary Scholars [submission portal](#) with your HawkID and password. Contact brittany-ryan@uiowa.edu or cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu with submission portal questions.

February 23, March 2, March 9	Participate in Innovation Labs
June 1, 2022	Application Deadline
Week of June 13, 2022	Awards Announced
August 1, 2022	Funds Available