

**2021 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY SEED FUND
UF RESEARCH**

- For FY 2021, 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 at <https://ufresearch.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1824258>)
- All proposals must be submitted to the UF Research at or before **5 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2021.**

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 – also provided in Appendix 1 of this document). 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 will be implemented for the 2021 Research Opportunity Seed Fund:

- 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 UF 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 2021 competition is provided below:**

Total Awards Received (FY 2019-2020)	# Proposals Allocated	Colleges
< \$5M	1 per college	Business; Fine Arts; Journalism & Communications; Nursing; Law; Center for Latin American Studies*; Libraries*
\$5M - 10M	2 per college	Florida Museum of Natural History; Design, Construction & Planning
\$10 - 25M	3 per college	Dentistry; Veterinary Medicine; Medicine-Jacksonville; Health & Human Performance
\$25 - 50M	4 per college	Pharmacy; Liberal Arts and Sciences; Public Health & Health Professions; Education;
\$100 - 150M	7 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 UF 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 2021, 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 UF Research is at the discretion of the college. The deadline for submission of each college's Research Opportunity Seed Fund proposals to the UF Research through UFIRST & IRR is January 29, 2021.
5. **All Research Opportunity Seed Fund awards will be administered over a two-year period.**
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 2017 Research Opportunity Seed fund award will end in June 2019. The PI of this award cannot submit another proposal until the 2021 competition (announced by the UF Research in fall 2020).

**FULL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
FOR SUBMISSION THROUGH UFIRST & IRR TO THE UF 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 at <https://ufresearch.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1824258>) 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 29, 2021. Proposals must be uploaded in PDF format only as ONE file (name file: 2021_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-ROSF2021: XXX. The Sponsor will be UF Research (GM0006982). The FOA# should be listed as UF-ROSF2021.

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](#) (also given in Appendix 2 in this document). 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. Abbreviations used in the proposal if necessary (half a page)
4. 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:
 - a. Specific Aims/Objectives
 - b. Background and Significance
 - c. Preliminary Data (if applicable)
 - d. Innovation/Potential Impact of Research
 - e. Approach/Research Design/Expected outcomes, Challenges, Alternative Strategies
 - f. Timeline for completion
5. Plans for continued support and/or commercial potential (1-2 pages).
 - a. Plans to obtain continuing external support for the project. 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**,
 - b. 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.
6. References Cited (no page limit)

7. Key Personnel. A list of the individuals to be involved and details of their participation (no page limit).
8. A detailed budget table and justification of expenses (no page limit).

- a. Budget Table

Budget table template is given below.

Budget Item	Description	Cost
A. Personnel (faculty salary not allowed)		
B. Fringe		
Total Personnel	Salary plus fringe	
C. Materials and supplies		
D. Other items (List each item on a new row)		
	Total Project Cost	

- b. Budget Justification

- 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 F&A 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 that are not available on campus. There are no F&A 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.
- A specific start date should be given (the earliest start date is June 1st, 2021). **If no start date is specified, the UF Research will assume a start date of June 1st, 2021.**

9. Biosketch and Current and Pending Support (Maximum of 5 pages)

- a. A current biosketch of the Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs/Co-Investigators (NIH- or NSF-style biosketch suggested)
- b. Current and Pending Support: Required for Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs/Co-Investigators. Please include % time committed to each funded/pending project.

10. 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.

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 UF Research will be reviewed by ad-hoc faculty review panels. In addition, the UF Innovation 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 UF Research web site at <http://research.ufl.edu/opportunityfund.html> (also given in Appendix 1 in this document)

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 29, 2021.**

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Every effort will be made to notify Principal Investigators of their award status by April 30th, 2021.

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

UF Research contacts:

Canan Balaban, opportunityfund@research.ufl.edu

Dr. Sobha Jaishankar, sjaishan@ufl.edu

APPENDIX 1
REVIEW CRITERIA – RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY SEED FUND

Opportunity Fund proposals received by the UF Research will be reviewed by faculty panels as outlined in the original solicitation.

An overall priority score will be assigned to each proposal keeping in mind the following review criteria:

Significance and Innovation: Does this study address an important problem? Is the project original, multi/interdisciplinary and innovative? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies? What will be the impact of these studies on the methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this area of research? Do the proposed outcomes represent a new paradigm for concepts in this area of research? Does the project represent a new direction of investigation for the faculty involved, or is it a new collaborative partnership? Does the project have commercial potential? (Please note commercial potential is not required.) Does the proposed project address UF's strategic goals?

Approach: Does the application represent a new conceptual/multidisciplinary approach to the identified problem? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Likelihood of obtaining external support: Do the investigators present reasonable plans to garner extramural support from specific funding agencies? Is the proposed timeline reasonable?

Investigators: Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project? Is there evidence of the ability of the team of investigators to work together in an interdisciplinary fashion?

Research Environment/Facilities: Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Do the PIs have the additional resources (e.g., equipment) to successfully accomplish their goals?

Budget: Is the requested budget appropriate for the scope of work?

**Definition of Multi-/Interdisciplinary:
(Wikipedia)**

"Multidisciplinarity is a non-integrative mixture of disciplines in that each discipline retains its methodologies and assumptions without change or development from other disciplines within the multidisciplinary relationship.

Multidisciplinarity is distinctly different from Interdisciplinarity because of the relationship that the disciplines share. Within a multidisciplinary relationship this cooperation "may be mutual and cumulative but not interactive" (Augsburg 2005: 56) while interdisciplinarity blends the practices and assumptions of each discipline involved. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multidisciplinarity>.

“An interdisciplinary field is a field of study that crosses traditional boundaries between academic disciplines or schools of thought, as new needs and professions have emerged. Interdisciplinarity involves researchers, students, and teachers in the goals of connecting and integrating several academic schools of thought, professions, or technologies -- along with their specific perspectives -- in the pursuit of a common task.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interdisciplinarity>

In the university setting, an ‘interdisciplinary’ project may create a new area of research/discipline (such as bioinformatics – the blend of biology and computational sciences – where both the biologists and computational folks are stepping out of their traditional roles and developing new research), while a multidisciplinary project will have people from different disciplines working together to address different aspects of a project (e.g. an NSF IGERT proposal - curriculum is developed by the researchers as pertinent to the research fields, while assessment and evaluation are done by a separate group.)

Each college review committee must decide if multi-/interdisciplinary proposals require collaboration outside the college. Some colleges (IFAS and CLAS for example) are large and varied enough so that all faculty may come from the same college (but different departments).

APPENDIX 2

Cover Page ROSF 2021

Title: DRPD-ROSF2021: XXXXXXXXX

PI: (Name, Department, College and email)

Co-PIs: (Name, Department, College)

Other Faculty contributing effort: (Name, Department, College)

Project Start Date: (default June 1st, 2021)

Total Budget Requested: (Max \$100,000)

Please check all that are applicable:

- This proposal/parts of this proposal have been submitted for funding through other seed programs at UF (CTSI, UF Informatics Institute, UF Biodiversity Institute, MBI, Water Institute, Cancer Center etc.) The proposal/parts of this proposal:
 - Are currently under consideration for funding
 - Were denied funding (Please provide reviewer comments in appendix)

- Is the proposal multidisciplinary?

- Is this a new collaboration?

- Does the proposal have potential for commercialization?