

Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments Data Crucible

Spring 2024 Faculty Research Award Seed Grant Program

We are pleased to announce that the inaugural cycle of the ICTE Data Crucible Seed Grant Program competition is now open!

WHAT DOES IT FUND:

The seed grant program aims to give Stony Brook University faculty a competitive edge in securing external research funds for work at Centre ValBio by supporting and fostering innovative scientific and scholarly activities that will lead to the development of proposals with a greater likelihood of success.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

To serve as Principal Investigator an individual must have a current full-time faculty appointment. Titles that require no prior approval from Chair to serve as PI include: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Distinguished Professor, Clinical Professor, Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, Research Professor.

Individuals with different titles are required to submit a letter from their Department Chair.

Additional eligibility information:

- Individuals may only be PI on one application.
- Individuals may only be a Co-PI on two applications.
- There is a limit of one Co-PI on any application.

AWARD:

Itemized budgets should not exceed **\$15,000** per PI, up to a total of **\$30,000** for a proposal with one PI and one Co-PI. Typical project lengths should be 12-18 months.

Proposals should provide a clear timeline to the submission of a proposal to at least one named external sponsor within 18 months. Failure to submit such a proposal within this timeframe will preclude eligibility for future funding from ICTE.

DEADLINE:

Full proposals due **June 30th, 2024** at **5PM EDT** via the [ICTE Faculty Research Award application form](#).

[Review the application details, including timeline and FAQs.](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS:

If you have questions or need further information, please email ICTE's Biological Data Manager at Richard.Bankoff@stonybrook.edu.

How to Apply: Spring 2024 ICTE Data Crucible Faculty Research Award Seed Grant Program

The Spring Application deadline is June 30th, 2024, at 5:00pm EDT. Link to the online submission portal will be available soon. You will receive confirmation emails that your application has been received immediately after you submit. If you do not receive this email after submitting your full proposal, please contact the Biological Data Manager at Richard.Bankoff@stonybrook.edu to confirm.

Eligibility

Please review carefully to determine whether you need a letter from your Department Chair.

To serve as Principal Investigator, an individual must have a current full-time faculty appointment. Titles that require no prior approval from Chair to serve as PI include: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Distinguished Professor, Clinical Professor, Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Professor.

Individuals with different titles are required to submit a letter from their Department Chair.

If needed, the letter should be included at the beginning of the proposal package and include:

1. Define how the research will be used to advance ICTE's seed grant mission.
2. Emphasize how the proposal will contribute to advancing research at Stony Brook's Centre ValBio Campus

Additional eligibility information:

- Individuals may only be PI on one application.
- Individuals may only be a Co-PI on two applications.
- There is a limit of one Co-PI on any application.

Full Proposal

Due **June 30th, 2024** at **5:00pm EDT**, via the ICTE Seed Grant Application Portal. Please note myResearch is not required for ICTE Seed Grant applications.

All documents should be combined in the following order and uploaded in ONE PDF file. Each section must start on a new page (the page limits for each are listed below). Font size must be 11 points or larger with 1-inch margins. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.

Overview/Abstract (1-page limit)

Impact Statement (1-page limit) that describes how the project will advance the PI/Co-PI's career and/or research program and includes a timeline for submitting a proposal to an external sponsor. It is advisable to indicate the specific sponsor/program. As you develop the timeline for external

submissions, please keep in mind that award periods will extend for 18 months, and PI teams are expected to apply for external grants within the award period.

Project Description (4-page limit) that explains the project goals and how they align with the seed grant objectives. If you have received a favorable review from an external grantor for your project, and you are applying to this program to address the reviewer feedback, include in this section a detailed explanation of how seed funding will allow you to strengthen your proposal for resubmission.

References (No page limit) consisting of full citations including authors, year of publication, title, journal, and inclusive pages. **Do not include any abstracts, summaries, or other annotations.**

Budget Justification (no page limit) that includes:

1. An itemized budget that does not exceed \$15,000 for single PI submissions or \$30,000 for PI/Co-PI submissions. Funds may not be used for salary for PI/Co-PIs, but may be used to fund salaries for PhD students and/or postdoctoral scholars so long as no less than 50% of their research time funded by these grants will be spent advancing the proposed project. All personnel-related expenses must include fringe. Travel funds may be requested but must be necessary to perform the proposed research. Given that these are internal funds, F&A costs should not be included in the budget. Budgets that include stipend support (for example, for graduate, undergraduate, or research staff) should include the appropriate fringe rate and a 4.8% payroll processing fee on the stipend amount, assessed by SBF for processing appointments. The Graduate School is offering a Tuition on Research Grants (ToRG) waiver and tuition scholarship for supported Stony Brook PhD students. Please indicate TORG waiver request in your budget justification but do not budget for tuition*.
2. A timeline for spending the funds between 12 and 18 months. This timeline will determine the length of the award period for funded projects, so it is very important to map out a clear and realistic plan for spending. PIs of funded projects will be expected to be mindful of the award period and account balance throughout the life of the award. Any PI teams that overspend will be expected to cover the difference with other funds. Likewise, PI teams that request more than the budget needed for the project in the proposed time frame should expect any remaining funds to be recaptured at the end of the award period.
3. Grants submitted to external funders that include preliminary results derived from these Seed grants or that use resources of the Data Crucible in other ways should include line items for partial salary for staff who support the Data Crucible in grant budgets totaling no more than 10% of direct costs, unless such expenses are expressly prohibited by the grantor.

Current and pending funding for all PIs and Co-PIs (no page limit)

Biosketch/CV for all PIs and Co-PIs (2-page limit per investigator)

* PIs should indicate this in their budget submission and also check "waiver" on the students' payroll appointment forms. This is only relevant to programs administered by the Graduate School. PhD students' graduate tuition scholarships should continue to be processed via their graduate program's GTS rosters through the Grad Finance office.

Review

All applications that comply with these guidelines will be peer-reviewed based on the criteria below. Please note that all reviewers will be internal to SBU and may not be experts in the specific field of the research topic. As part of the review process, we make every effort to match the topic of the proposal to the subject expertise of the reviewer. We strongly recommend, however, that PIs develop the narrative in such a way that colleagues in related fields can clearly understand.

1. **Innovation** (10%): To what extent is the research concept and/or approach novel and likely to result in advances in the field?
2. **Research Team** (15%): How well qualified is the individual or team to conduct the proposed research?
3. **External Funding** (35%): To what extent would the proposed research create opportunities for attracting external funding? If you are applying to the seed grant program to prepare for a resubmission of a proposal that received favorable external reviews, your resubmission plans will be evaluated as part of the External Funding review criteria.
4. **Research Advancement** (20%): To what extent does the proposed project have the potential to advance the PI/Co-PI's career, benefit the research program, and/or reinforce the University's research mission?
5. **Overall Impact and Excellence** (20%): How likely is the proposed program to create a meaningful contribution to the research field?

Reviewers will also be asked to indicate if the budget is clear, efficient, and well-justified.

Progress Reports

Awarded projects will be required to submit two progress reports during the life of the award. Templates will be provided: one 9 months into the grant, and one at the conclusion of the grant.

PIs who fail to complete official progress reports by their respective deadlines will not be eligible to apply for future seed funding as PI or co-PI. Additionally, PIs who fail to submit proposals to external sponsors within the award period will not be eligible to apply for future seed funding as PI or co-PI. Any expected delays in internal progress report submissions or external proposal submissions must be clearly communicated to the Office of Proposal Development ASAP to avoid ineligibility in future funding cycles. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please direct all questions to: Richard.Bankoff@stonybrook.edu

Post Award Service

Seed awardees will be required to serve as a reviewer for a minimum of three (3) competitions, which might include seed grant competitions, limited competitions, and other competitions from the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments.