

Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives (I3) 2020
Office of Research & Innovation

UO's Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives (I3) award program fosters new research projects that successfully develop a novel, transdisciplinary line of research, and that creates a convincing plan for submitting to external funding based on the pilot work. I3 partnerships should emerge from shared research interests and needs across disciplines, and be developed in relation to external funding opportunities, UO's institutional strengths, academic priorities, and institutional history.

Please note that the I3 program is one of 3 active interdisciplinary seed funding programs supported by the OVPRI. We do not encourage submission of identical projects that were submitted to other internal seed funding programs.

TIMELINE

Mandatory Letter of Intent Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2020 by 5pm

Application Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2020 by 5pm

Faculty Panel Review: Mid-May

Award notifications: Early June

Project period: Projects start July 1, 2020. Final reports are due 30 days after the end date of the project period.

ELIGIBILITY

All tenured or tenure track faculty, and career NTTF faculty in the *research associate* and *research professor* classification with 1.0 FTE appointments (who will hold a UO appointment during the academic year(s) of the research award) are eligible to apply. *Emeritus, retired, courtesy, Visiting, instructor, postdoc, librarian, and pro-term faculty are ineligible.*

- Faculty members may submit only ONE application as principal investigator, but may serve as a team member on other proposals.
- Faculty members funded through the I3 program are not eligible to compete in future I3 grant cycles for three years from the activation date of the successful proposal.
- Funding preference is given to investigators without active VPRI seed funding from other internal awards programs.

SCOPE OF THE AWARD / USE OF FUNDS

Amount: I3 Awards provide up to \$50,000 in support.

Length of project: Project period may not exceed 24 months.

Expected outcome: The submission of a proposal for extramural funding for a center, program, or large-scale research grant that involves multiple faculty investigators for an award period of three or more years. External partnerships and collaborations are encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to engage experts who can contribute to your project and strengthen your eventual application for external funding.

Budget and allowable costs: Funds may be used for costs necessary to plan the research project (consistent with university and state rules) including:

- travel,
- equipment,
- materials and supplies,
- contractual services,
- other direct costs: e.g. core/shared user facility use, speaker stipend,
- salary of graduate students, undergraduates, and/or technical personnel under the supervision of project investigators, where data collection is required as a part of the effort to enhance competitiveness.

Budgets may include funds to support a planning workshop, faculty retreat, to host a distinguished speaker who will help you initiate your project, or to travel to visit a program officer to discuss your project.

*I 3 funds may **NOT** be used to:*

- replace current funding from another source,
- for renovation, remodeling, or alteration of research laboratories or core/shared facilities,
- to fund or replace PI faculty salary or stipend, or for instructional release/course buyout.

LETTER OF INTENT

The letter of intent is mandatory but non-binding - the purpose of the LOI is solely to help identify appropriate faculty reviewers. Please fill out the [online form](#) by **Monday, March 23 by 5pm**.

APPLICATION FORMAT

Applications are made through the [online form](#). Please note, the form cannot be saved as a draft.

Formatting requirements: Times New Roman font in 11 point or larger and 1" margins.

Combine the following documents into one PDF in the following order, and attach to the online form.

1. **Abstract:** a short summary (250 words or less) of the project goals and activities.
2. **Proposal Narrative:** 3-page **total**. Include all sections (A-C).
 - A. *Introduction*
 - i. Provide a background or rationale for the project, including significance
 - ii. Describe how the proposed work represents a novel research direction among an interdisciplinary team
 - iii. Identify current status of the research at UO, including programmatic strengths and expertise of team members
 - B. *Proposed Plan*
 - i. Describe overall project aims or goals
 - ii. Identify specific research, scholarly, and/or proposal development activities to which funds will be applied, how you will complete these activities, the roles and responsibilities of each collaborator, and how these activities will enhance the competitiveness of the project for external funding
 - C. *External Funding Strategy*
 - i. Identify one or more external funding agency and program and submission deadlines. Provide a strategy and a timeline to prepare and submit to these opportunities (recipients are expected to submit an external proposal within 24 to 36 months of receipt of an I3 Award).

- ii. Describe the fit between the proposed project and external funding priorities/opportunities.
3. **References:** 1 page
4. **Biographical sketch or CV:** 2-page maximum for all faculty involved in the project
5. **Current and pending support:** List current and pending funding (funding source, project title, project period, total budget); include any awards you have received from the University of Oregon.
6. **Budget:** Use I3 budget excel template on the [RDS website](#)
7. **Budget justification:** 1 page. Describe each budget line item listed in the budget template, breaking out costs by unit as applicable.
8. **Letter of support:** Letter from Department Head/Center or Institute Director and/or Dean(s) describing how the application supports the unit/college mission/goals and detailing/authorizing the commitment (if any) for matching support designated for the project.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

All applications will be reviewed by a faculty review panel that makes recommendations to the Vice President for Research & Innovation. Review criteria are described below. While panelists will consider and rate on all of the criteria, the new and promising interdisciplinary direction and high potential for external funding are of particular importance. Final determination of funding will be made by the Vice President for Research & Innovation.

Review Criteria

1. *Research Project:*
 - a. How clearly does the applicant describe the research problems or questions? Does the applicant specify a gap in the research to be addressed?
 - b. Is the project's significance well-articulated? Does the project have intellectual merit?
 - c. Does the project represent a new and promising direction for the research team?
 - d. Is the proposed research interdisciplinary? Are the intellectual contributions of the identified disciplines clearly articulated?
2. *Research Approach:*
 - a. How clearly does the project describe the overall project aim and/or goals?
 - b. Is the methodology clearly articulated and appropriate to the proposed project?
 - c. Are the roles and responsibilities of the team members clearly described and well-justified?
 - d. Do the research activities proposed enhance the competitiveness of the project for external funding?
3. *Research Team:*
 - a. Do the research team members possess the appropriate qualifications and experience to accomplish the proposed research objectives?
 - b. Do the team members provide evidence of past success in obtaining external research funding?
 - c. How does the proposed research align with the team members long-term research agendas?
4. *External Funding Strategy:*
 - a. Does the research team clearly identify an external funding mechanism or program to which they intend to apply?
 - b. Does the proposed research align with the funding mechanism and the funding priorities of the external sponsor(s)?

- c. Does the application describe a feasible and appropriate strategy for preparing and submitting a proposal for external funding?
- 5. *Timeline and Budget*
 - a. Does the applicant describe a realistic timeline to accomplish research goals and proposal development activities?
 - b. Is the budget well-justified? Will the budget support the development and implementation of the project?

REPORTING

A final report is required and due to Research Development Services no later than one month (30 days) after the conclusion of funding. RDS will supply awardees a final report form in the last quarter of their project.

Questions about the I3 program, application, or submission process may be directed to Research Development Services, rds@uoregon.edu.