



ICTAS Junior Faculty Program Request for Proposals For Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021-June 2022) Funding (JFP-RFP)

ICTAS is soliciting interdisciplinary white papers from Virginia Tech faculty for a funding opportunity with anticipated support beginning July 1, 2021 (FY 2022). Proposals will demonstrate an interdisciplinary, collaborative research relationship between the PI, a junior faculty member at VT, and other VT faculty members. A senior faculty member in a mentorship role is desirable but not required. ICTAS is requesting a 4-page (maximum) proposal for panel review and subsequent consideration for funding. ICTAS intends to award up to four grants of up to \$80K total of direct funding only over two years (\$40K per year for each year).

Principal Investigators (PIs)

PIs must be either 1) non-tenured, tenure track faculty member or 2) AP or research faculty appointed at Virginia Tech after February 1, 2017. Post-Doctoral Fellows are not eligible to apply. There is a limit of one white paper submission per PI. Faculty who served as a PI on a funded JFA in past years are not eligible.

Co-PIs

Co-PIs may be any VT faculty member. Faculty may act as Co-PI on multiple proposals and a PI on one proposal may be a Co-PI on other proposals. It is acceptable to have additional Co-PIs external to VT, however, external Co-PIs may not receive funding from VT and there must be at least two faculty members from VT participating.

Interdisciplinary Research

The PI and Co-PIs should be from different academic disciplines. Faculty members with the same or similar terminal degrees, from the same department, or from markedly similar disciplines must make a compelling argument on the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed research. Proposals with team members from different colleges generally display greater “interdisciplinarity.”

Research Topics

Proposal topics must be aligned with one of the following Destination Areas: Data and Decisions, Integrated Security, Global Systems Science, Intelligent Infrastructure for Human-Centered Communities, Adaptive Brain and Behavior or Economic and Sustainable Materials. PIs must identify the Destination Area most clearly aligned with the proposal.

Funding

Awards are for a maximum amount of \$40K per year with no indirect. Second year funding is contingent on 1) demonstration of satisfactory technical performance and scholarship at our annual review and 2) availability of resources. Faculty salary (except for Post-Doctoral Fellow

salary) must not be included in the proposed budget. The proposal will not include indirect, so all funds should be budgeted as direct costs. Typically, funds are used for GRA stipends and tuition, supplies and required travel. Equipment purchases are typically not approved, but may be requested on a case by case basis. **There will be no transfer of funds to external partners.**

Proposal Submission

Submit a PDF copy of your proposal by email to ictasrfp@vt.edu no later than **5pm Monday February 1st, 2021**. You will receive an acknowledgement the proposal has been received within 24 hours. If you do not receive the acknowledgement, check the email address and try again. If there is still no acknowledgement, contact Jon Greene, greenej@vt.edu , 540-553-5846.

Proposals should be submitted in 11 point font or larger, single spaced with 1” margins. Figures and tables must be legible.

In the body of the email, include:

1. Proposal Title
2. PI
3. Co-PI
4. Destination Area/Strategic Growth Area (list only one)
5. Budget requested and proposed use (e.g. \$40k total with \$35k for GRA stipend and tuition, \$4k for supplies, and \$1k for travel). A general breakdown of the budget of this sort is all that is required.

Attach a PDF proposal of not more than four pages with the following sections:

1. Proposal Title
2. ½ page abstract (does not count toward page count)
3. Statement of Problem and Proposed Solution
4. Proposed Research and Differentiating Technical Approach
5. Interdisciplinary Approach and alignment to destination area
6. Plan for external funding
7. References (does not count toward proposal page count)
8. A standard NSF or NIH biosketch for PI and all Co-PIs that includes current funding (does not count toward proposal page count)

Note: Items 3-6 above apply to the 4-page limit.

Past awards in the ICTAS Seed RFP may be found at:

https://ictas.vt.edu/content/dam/ictas_vt_edu/researchawards-website.pdf

Review Process

There will be a three part review process.

1. ICTAS will review the proposals for compliance. Non-compliant proposals may be returned to the PI with no additional review.

2. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of ICTAS faculty, representatives of the Colleges supporting ICTAS, and junior faculty members that have won previous junior faculty awards.
3. Final selection will be made by the Director of ICTAS with input from a panel of ICTAS faculty members.

Selection criteria:

- Most Important:
 - Potential for external funding
- Second level of importance:
 - Cutting edge science and technology
- Additionally, reviewers will consider:
 - Clear association with the selected Destination Area
 - Clear research objectives and plan
 - Degree of “Interdisciplinarity” (evidence of real collaboration between VT faculty members of diverse disciplines)
 - Reasonable link between requested funds and proposed outcome
 - Clearly defined roles of team members
 - Probability and impact of success

Panel review process will emulate the standard NSF style with rankings of Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Poor

Awards

Funding decisions will be announced on or about March 1, 2021. Review panel feedback will be provided on request.

Questions/advice? Please Contact: Jon Greene, 540-553-5846, greenej@vt.edu