Sponsored by a cross-campus collaboration to support student research in sustainability.

Sustainability Research Development Grant

Guidelines

Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2016

All application materials, including recommendation letter, must be received by the deadline to be considered.

Purpose:

These awards are designed to encourage and support sustainability research by currently enrolled Indiana University undergraduate and graduate students. Successful proposals have clearly stated goals and objectives, employ appropriate methods and tools, and address sustainability challenges, such as resource stewardship, assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts caused by human activity, and institutional and societal responses to ecological change.

Both basic and applied research is supported from the arts and humanities, social and natural sciences, and technical and policy studies. Special consideration is given to projects directed at campus, community, and/or regional research targets, although proposals that address global sustainability problems also are accepted. Priority will be given to high-quality interdisciplinary projects that include participants from multiple disciplines, as well as proposals that involve collaborative graduate-undergraduate student research teams.

This program is part of a growing array of initiatives supported by the Indiana University Office of Sustainability (http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain) and the Integrated Program in the Environment (http://www.indiana.edu/~iuipe).

Eligibility:

Grant applicants and recipients must be enrolled undergraduate or graduate students in good standing and cannot be scheduled to graduate prior to project completion. The grants require the support of a full-time IUB faculty member who will write a letter of support for the applicant and be responsible for administering grant funding, should the proposal be accepted. If the student proposal is submitted by a research team, then additional faculty mentors associated with the project also should complete the recommendation form.

Award Details:

For undergraduate research, awards may be up to $3,000. For graduate research, awards range from $2,000 to $10,000. Award funds can include graduate student
fellowships (up to $3,000) or undergraduate student scholarships (up to $1,000), as well as funds for field, laboratory, computational, or library research. If multiple-investigator awards are made, recipients will share the award. Awardees also are expected to engage with other fellows and members of the university sustainability community by preparing a poster for the Sustainability Symposium in April and are expected to submit a summary report to the IU Office of Sustainability by the conclusion of the following spring semester. All proposals must demonstrate how the project engages the biophysical, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability.

**Application Procedures:**

*Note: The Review Committee is composed of faculty and student members who may not be specialists in the applicant’s field.*

Application must include:

1. Research proposal prepared by the applicant(s):
   - Descriptions must be written in clear, concise prose, and are limited to 1,500 words.
   - An abstract between 200-250 words, not included in the 1,500 word count mentioned above.
   - A detailed rationale and plan of work, including key project objectives, method(s), and a timeline.
   - A detailed budget of estimated expenses, including equipment, travel, and scholarship/fellowship costs. The proposed budget should focus on items/expenses directly related to the completion of the research (e.g. travel to study site, data collection, field work, analysis). The program does not fund students to attend conferences.
   - Your faculty sponsor’s departmental research account number should be included immediately following the budget section.

2. Current curriculum vitae/resume of all project participants. (Note: Please compile, save, and submit the research proposal and CV/resume in ONE document.)

3. Recommendation form (to be completed and submitted by the faculty sponsor):
   - The faculty sponsor support statement should be completed using a form found with the application. These recommendations address:
     - project originality and innovation
     - relevance to sustainability (i.e. social, economic, and ecological dimensions)
     - potential impact on future IUB research and/or campus sustainability initiatives
     - timeliness (for the applicant and for the university)
- feasibility (competence of investigator, likelihood of accomplishment, use of appropriate technology, if any)
- departmental commitment to the project
- overall quality of project (concept, planning, long-term influence)
- a statement from the faculty sponsor, indicating that she/he is willing to manage payment of the graduate fellowship and/or undergraduate scholarship with support from her/his academic home department.

**Proposal Evaluation:**

Members of the Review Committee are instructed to rate each proposal on the basis of the criteria described above. The applicant is therefore urged to discuss the proposed work in relation to each of the criteria, providing information about the project in the context of her/his department, the discipline, and the University. Undergraduate proposals will be evaluated separately, on the basis of both the quality of the research and the potential contributions of the project to the student’s undergraduate academic experience. Proposals that include graduate and undergraduate students will be evaluated in the graduate student proposal pool.

**The Review Process:**

An interdisciplinary review committee convened by the IU Office of Sustainability will review applications within a month of the submission deadline. Awards will be announced by the end of March or early April. Funds will be provided to the faculty mentor's research account and will be administered in accordance with university administrative and financial policies.

**Proposals and letters of evaluation should be submitted electronically (in PDF format) to:** Education and Research Working Group email: erwg@indiana.edu

**For questions related to the grant or application process,** email or call Andrew Predmore: sapredmo@indiana.edu, 812-855-2818