



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GRADUATE COLLEGE

Sustainable Campus Fund Innovation Research Project Proposal – Graduate Students

The [Sustainable Campus Fund](#) (SCF) supports students' vision of enhancing a culture of sustainability, innovation, and research on campus. Sustainability solutions can come from many areas of the University. The Sustainable Campus Fund has been created to effectively leverage education and solutions across campus to address the pressing sustainability issues of our time and in particular, their relationship to climate change. The SCF has three funding mechanisms: Academic and Co-curricular Education Projects, Infrastructure Projects and [Undergraduate and Graduate College Innovation Research Projects](#).

The Graduate College solicits applications from graduate students for SCF Innovation Research Projects. Awards may cover research related to renewable energy, energy and water efficiency, transportation, recycling and waste reduction, purchasing practices, or food and agriculture. Sustainability awards should aim to engage key aspects of sustainability wherever possible: social equity, ecological health, economic viability, human values and behavior. Outcomes may include, for example, insights on human behavior, data applications for a specific technology, policy recommendations and the creation of new knowledge relevant to sustainability. These awards are available for students in any discipline.

The current deadline for receipt of proposals is February 21, 2023.

Eligibility

UVM graduate students with minimum half-time enrollment status in the academic year are eligible to apply for SCF Innovation Research funds. Students must be in good academic standing; the Graduate College will review applicants' academic records. Proposals that require facilities and/or expertise of UVM faculty, staff or administration must include appropriate letter(s) of support.

Amount, Duration, and Budget

Funds will be available May 2023, and must be expended by August 31, 2025, or by the student's graduation date, whichever is first. The budget for the project must be between \$1,000 to \$30,000. The SCF may not be used for professional development for individuals, course work at other institutions or costs related to registration, travel, or attendance at meetings/conferences.

Review Process

Proposals will be vetted by the Graduate Executive Committee in consultation with the Executive Council of the Graduate Student Senate and forwarded to the Director of Sustainability for final approval. Successful applications will represent innovative ideas that align with the mission of the SCF and UVM, be feasible within the proposed budget and include all necessary regulatory approvals and/or evidence of collaboration and availability of facilities as needed.

Award Conditions

Graduate students accepting SCF Innovation Research awards must comply with all applicable procedures and regulations. At the end of the award period, successful applicants will report their activities and accomplishments to the Dean of the Graduate College who will post results on appropriate websites.

The SCF Innovation Research award will be acknowledged in all publications and presentations and, as appropriate, in applications for further funding.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The complete application must be submitted as a PDF emailed to GradColl@uvm.edu. No paper submissions will be accepted. Indicate SCF Innovation Research Project Application in the email subject line.

The application should consist of:

1. Cover/Signature Page
2. Detailed Budget (total between \$1,000 and \$30,000)
3. Descriptive Proposal with Scientific Abstract
4. IRB, IACUC, IBC, etc. checklist (attach documents as appropriate)
5. Letters of support as needed for access to facilities or expertise
6. Letter of support from applicant's advisor addressing the feasibility of the budget and timeline and the extent to which the project overlaps with the applicant's thesis or dissertation research
7. Lay summary of the project

1. COVER PAGE

Applicant's name and graduate program: Include the date the applicant entered graduate program and expected graduation term.

Title: A **brief**, clear, specific description of the subject of research. The title, by itself, should give a clear indication of what the project is about.

Duration of project: Specify the time period up to two years (must not continue past the student's expected graduation).

Budget: Only totals for each major category (wages, consumables, equipment, services, and subject payments) are required here. Round to the nearest dollar.

Signatures: The proposal must be signed by both the student and the student's graduate program director. Include the typed name of the Program Director. Unsigned applications (or applications lacking a cover page) will not be considered.

2. DETAILED BUDGET

This budget page should include a list of the major items within the following categories: wages, consumables, equipment, services, and subject payments. Travel and professional development costs are not allowed. Round to the nearest dollar. Provide a justification for expenses in each category. Also list any other sources of support (e.g., other grants, mentor support, etc.).

Note that wages for the applicant are allowed in specific cases but are limited to 200 hours at \$20.00 per hour. Students who are not funded with graduate assistantships may use the wages at any time. Students who are funded on a 9-month graduate assistantship may only use the wages in the summer. Additional wages are not allowed for students with 12-month graduate assistantships. Wages for undergraduate students (\$12.55-\$16.00/hour) may be requested to assist in conducting the research. No funds for faculty salaries are allowed.

3. DESCRIPTIVE PROPOSAL (Maximum length: 5 single-spaced pages, excluding references)

This description should consist of the following sections:

One paragraph scientific abstract: A brief description of the work and statement focusing on the importance of the proposed research to the mission of the SCF.

Body of proposal: Describe the research project and its relationship to the SCF mission. Include methods and design of the project, and collection, evaluation and interpretation of data. Describe the timeframe of the project. Equipment and facilities available for the research should be noted.

Literature cited: Not included in the 5-page limit.

4. IRB, IACUC, IBC, etc. CHECKLIST (check all that apply):

- Animals, animal tissues or cells
- Biological or infectious materials including:
 - Virus, bacteria, parasites
 - Recombinant DNA
 - Bloodborne pathogens
- Chemicals, compressed gases, controlled substances or select agents
- Electrical, hydraulic and other high energy systems
- Farm and animal or field and vehicle hazards
- Human subjects
- Human derived materials/tissue cultures, cell lines, or blood
- Ionizing radiation or lasers
- Isotopes
- Nanoparticles
- Noise
- Non-native/invasive species
- Shipping, receiving, and/or transporting hazardous materials, including samples in chemical solutions
- Water, diving, and boat hazards

If you checked *any* of the above, do you already have the necessary IRB, IACUC, IBC, Environmental Safety Training, or other necessary approvals?

If yes, then attach the approval that clearly indicates your name as part of the protocol or the date and type of training.

If no, then attach an explanation of where you are in the process.

Note: NO funding will be given prior to the receipt of the necessary approvals.

5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Provide a letter of support from your graduate advisor that addresses the feasibility of completing the project within the proposed budget and timeline. If the SCF Innovation Research project is directly

part of your graduate project, thesis or dissertation, the letter from your advisor must confirm that the project was developed by you and the proposal written entirely by you.

Provide letters of support as needed for access to facilities or expertise of UVM faculty, staff or administration.

6. RELATIONSHIP TO GRADUATE WORK

Describe the relationship, if any, of the proposed research to your scholarship for your master's thesis or project or doctoral dissertation or project.

7. LAY SUMMARY

One paragraph lay summary of the project: not included in the 5-page limit. This description will be used to notify the University community about the award and should be understandable to a wide audience. Relationship of the project to the goals of the Sustainable Campus Fund must be included.

QUESTIONS – Contact the Dean of the Graduate College: Cynthia.Forehand@uvm.edu