



ISRI
INVASION SCIENCE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Faculty Interdisciplinary Seed Grants, 2024 – Economics, Social Science and Human Dimensions

The mission of the UF Invasion Science Research Institute (ISRI) is to facilitate interdisciplinary research to advance our understanding of the causes and consequences of invasive species; generate innovative approaches to reduce invasions and their impacts on natural, agricultural, and urban systems; and train the next generation of invasion scientists.

To enhance research collaboration and innovation and contribute to this mission, ISRI offers Interdisciplinary Seed Grants. Following our first call in Fall of 2023 we received many excellent proposals spanning multiple taxa, systems, and approaches. However, there was a strong natural science emphasis to most proposals and little representation of social and economic issues. Accordingly, for the current call we are looking to support 1-3 additional proposals led by social scientists.

We are especially interested in proposals that focus on understanding the economic and societal impacts of invasive species and their control. Illustrative topics include: evaluation of the economic impacts of invasives and how these are changing over time across different sectors (agriculture, forestry, natural environments, health etc); understanding impact of invasives considering multiple ‘capitals’ (so exploring effects not only on financial capital, but also natural capital, cultural capital, human capital etc.); methods for system-level cost-benefit analysis of interventions (including the costs of inaction, possible trade-offs in perceived benefits/risks for different stakeholders, differences between agriculture and natural environments etc); exploration of prospective return on investment from improvement to biosecurity measures such as earlier detection and more rapid response. The work should have a focus on Florida in the first instance, but ideally explore methods that can be applied more broadly.

AWARD INFORMATION

Number of Awards: 2-3 Awards

Amount of Awards: \$40-60,000 for 1 calendar year

Submission Deadline: November 12, 2024, 5:00 pm

Start Date: January 2025.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be competitive, proposals should look to integrate insights from multiple disciplines and ideally involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges. We acknowledge that individual departments can encompass diverse disciplinary expertise, so we do not exclude applications from single departments. However, single-investigator proposals are not eligible. We encourage proposals that leverage expertise across the UF community (e.g. through participatory workshops).

Proposals may be submitted by any UF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency. Other posts such as Courtesy, Adjunct, Visiting, and OPS faculty; Assistant In, Associate In, Senior Associate In; Research Associates; and Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible to be PIs, although they may participate as co-PIs.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence as a single PDF.

- 1. Cover Page:** Include title, list of PIs, co-PIs, and all faculty contributing time to the project and their departmental/college affiliations, email address of primary contact PI, project start date, and budget request.
- 2. Abstract:** Up to 30-lines. Explain the rationale for the work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by an “intelligent non-expert.”
- 3. Project Description:** Up to four (4) pages of text MAXIMUM describing the project. **The project description should be written such that it can be understood by an interdisciplinary faculty committee.**

The Project Description should include the following:

- A. Background and Significance: Proposals should explicitly spell out the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed project
- B. Specific Aims/Objectives
- C. Innovation/Potential Impact of Proposed Research
- D. Approach/Research Design

Proposals can include preliminary data if applicable, but this is not an essential requirement.

- 4. Project Budget & Justification:** maximum of 1 page

Budgets should be in the range of \$40,000 - \$60,000 and a duration of 1 year. The budget may include all normally allowable costs of research as outlined in the Cost Accounting Standards, apart from faculty salaries and indirect costs. Faculty salaries may NOT be charged to the Seed Grant. There are no indirect costs associated with these grants. Seed Grants are to be expended on campus or at the RECs. Exceptions will be allowed in instances where specific techniques are not available at UF.

- 5. Literature Cited** (no page limit)

- 6. Key Personnel:** A list of the individuals to be involved and details of their participation (no page limit)

7. Plans to obtain continuing external support for the project (1 page maximum). Proposals must provide a strategy for how external support will be pursued following the Seed Grant, including prospective funding mechanisms from Federal Agencies or Foundations.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications, composed of a single merged pdf that includes all segments described above, must be submitted by email to Paul Evans (evansp@ufl.edu).

The subject line of the email should use the format ISRI SEED GRANT APPLICATION LASTNAME FIRSTNAME.

The submission deadline is **November 12, at 5:00 pm.**

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be single-spaced; font size no less than Times New Roman 11-point or Arial 10-point; 1-inch margins.

REVIEW PROCESS

An interdisciplinary selection committee composed of members of the ISRI Internal Advisory Board will evaluate the applications and select the awardees.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

We anticipate announcing the award recipients in December, with an anticipated start date of January 2025.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within 6 months after the conclusion of the grant, all awardees of Seed Grants are expected to participate in an appropriate symposium/poster session sponsored by ISRI. Within 1 month of the termination of the 1-year award, PIs are expected to submit a report on their accomplishments and an outline of the proposal to be submitted to an external agency, as noted in item 7 above.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact:

Dr. Matthew Thomas, IRSI Director

Email: matthewthomas1@ufl.edu