

AWI Interdisciplinary Innovation Program (I² Program)

The AWI Interdisciplinary Innovation Program (I² Program) aims to increase the rate of competitive external grant submissions from UA faculty and researchers affiliated with the AWI. The program will support research proposed **by interdisciplinary research teams**, and which will (a) provide critically necessary **empirical pilot data** (quantitative and/or qualitative) for a federal grant submission, and (b) include **clear timelines and procedures for a federal/foundation research grant submission** (separate from the timeline for the pilot project study itself). Proposals must include a description of plans for a federal grant submission. The focus of the project should have a clear connection to the societal needs of vital water resources. Funding will be considered for salary for staff, GRAs, travel, equipment, supplies to meet the goal of rigorous, innovative, and highly significant pilot project research (the PI can also determine whether a course release opportunity is available).

Eligibility & Requirements

The proposal should clearly address:

- How the project will advance the vision and mission of the AWI
- Why AWI funding is essential for the research
- Why other sources of funding are not available

Other requirements:

- The interdisciplinary research team must consist of a minimum of 2 faculty members/research professionals from 2 different colleges.
- Budgets must meet compliance with all UA and divisional travel and financial policies. The PI is responsible for ensuring compliance with all UA policies and procedures.
- Proposed projects may be a novel extension of ongoing work but cannot significantly overlap with other funded projects.

Application

Applications for funding should be prepared and submitted as an electronic document. One of the research team should be the designated Principal Investigator. The application should include the following sections:

- I) **Title** of the proposed project, along with name(s), academic rank(s), and departmental affiliation(s) of the applicants, and the signatures of both the applicant PI and co-PIs, and the chairs of the applicant PIs departments, signifying that the work has been approved by them (Page 1 of the proposal). All pages should be 12pt font single-spaced and margins of 1 inch.

2) **Hypotheses, Objectives/Specific Aims** of the proposed work – This should not exceed 500 words and should be suitable for general publication or dissemination to a general audience. The Hypotheses and Objectives/Specific Aims page should include a brief rationale for the proposal, description of the method, and the hypotheses/aims to be tested. (Page 2 of the proposal).

3) **Proposal** – This section should describe in detail the methods, approaches and plans for alternative approaches. The proposed work should be described in sufficient detail to evaluate its success and potential impact, but still at a level general enough for a non-specialist to understand. The proposal should address the following areas (pp. 3-6) for projects meant to lead to NSF/DOE/DOD/NIH, and external funders with related grant application formats. (Pages 3-6; this section should not exceed 4 pages).

- a. The **significance** of the project for complex water resource issues and/or outcomes that are the focus of the project.
- b. The expertise of the PI and the **interdisciplinary team** in addressing the research question.
- c. The **innovation** of the planned research.
- d. The **approach** of the project (concept; hypotheses; sample, methods, procedures, analyses)

4) **Timeline** of the grant submission process – this will be an **additional** 1-2 single-spaced pages describing how the pilot project will fit into the larger timeline of submitting a federal/foundation research grant. The funding source will be identified (NIH, NSF, DOD, DOE etc), along with relevant *Program Announcements (PA)*, *Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)*, or *Requests for Applications (RFA)*. The timeline will include the date of a planned grant submission, along with when the tasks related to the larger federal grant application will be completed. The timeline must include when the investigative team will contact Program Officials from the agency and when review of a proposal application is expected to occur. Applications that provide greater specificity about the subsequent federal/foundation grant submission steps will receive greater priority.

List organizations, programs and their URLs to which you will apply for next-stage funding, including target submission dates, using the following format:

Organization	Program	URL	Target Submission Date
NSF	ATE	https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5464&org=ERE&sel_org=ERE&from=fund	09/30/19

5) If the application is a revision of a previously submitted application, the application should have a one-page single-spaced Introduction page (consistent with NSF revision applications) indicating how the prior reviewers’ concerns had been addressed. The Introduction page should be placed before to the Hypotheses/Objectives/Specific Aims page.

Budget and Budget Justification

AWI will accept proposals with budgets of any amount, but not to exceed \$25,000.00. Include a detailed budget, and detailed budget justification, and brief timeline for the project work (in addition to *the larger timeline just described for the subsequent grant submission*). The total period of the proposal,

covering the pilot project completion and the completion of all elements of the grant submission timeline, should be specified and will be up to 12 months. This section can be 1-2 pages single-spaced.

Submission Dates

The deadline is **October 31st of each year (5 pm CT)**. Application materials should be uploaded through Formstack https://uaawi.formstack.com/forms/interdisciplinary_innovations_program

Reference List

A reference list (1 page), including key references that help to provide a framework for the question being addressed, is expected.

Biosketch

A 2-page NSF/NIH Biosketch is required for each investigator. Applications that do not include the required biosketch format will be returned to the PI.

General Administrative Guidelines

1. All funds awarded will begin on **January 1st** and terminate on **December 31st** of that year.
2. Requisitions must be processed through your College/School Dean's Office prior to the purchase of any item or service charged to AWI awards.
3. All staff positions, including assistants, funded by AWI awards must be payrolled through your College/School Dean's Office. An appointment must be sent to your College/School prior to the time the appointee begins working. When hiring staff, all federal Immigration and Naturalization Service and UA-hiring and affirmative action procedures apply.
4. Equipment and supplies – all UA purchasing guidelines and policies apply to this award.
5. No-cost extension will not be granted.

Award Guidelines

Award Terms & Conditions

1. PI agrees to submit a final report at the end of the project period (December 31st).
2. It is expected that the PI/team will submit at least 1 external federal funding application based on the research data obtained through the AWI-I² Program within 12 months of the seed funding end date. A copy of the submitted grant application and/or grant reviews if applicable should be forwarded to AWI.
3. PI agrees to acknowledge AWI in publications & presentations resulting from funding.
4. PI and team agree to present at an AWI H.U.B. Talk session.