

## Interdisciplinary Research Grant

**Deadline: December 6, 2021  
12:00 pm EST**

The diversity throughout CUNY's 25-college system makes it well placed to meet the most pressing issues facing our society. Our University has faculty experts in crucial research areas, strong ties to city and state agencies, and is integrated into every NYC neighborhood.

During AY2021-2022, the CUNY Office of Research will support collaborative research in the following significant areas:

- Climate science
- Data science/artificial intelligence
- Public health

Innovation springs from teams of faculty who have different research backgrounds. We invite interdisciplinary proposals that address urgent scientific and societal challenges through convergent research (transdisciplinary research with societal impact). The program will fund projects that join expertise across disciplines and stipulate a clear path to new external funding. A minimum of two investigators is required: one PI and one co-PI, ideally from another CUNY college, school, and/or center. Multi-PI teams are encouraged.

The program will fund up to eight (8) collaborative research projects with budgets not exceeding \$40,000. Award announcements will be made by **February 1, 2022**.

### Eligibility

- Proposals must choose one primary theme: climate science, data science/artificial intelligence, or public health.
- Collaborations must include faculty from two or more CUNY colleges, and interdisciplinary collaborations can include faculty at the same college, but if so they must be different departments.
- Faculty may participate in only one proposal as a PI or Co-PI. Lecturers, adjunct faculty, and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible.
- Only authentic interdisciplinary research projects are eligible. Web or media development, curriculum development, or similar types of initiatives are not eligible.
- Research involving human or animal subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to the release of any funds. For more information about IRB and human subjects research, please see this link: <https://www.cuny.edu/research/research-compliance/human-research-protection-program/>
- Awardees (PI teams) must submit a final report at the end of the funding period.

### Budget & Budget Justification

The period of performance will be February 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023. Funds will be disbursed as a mix of tax levy and RF monies. Funds can be requested in the following categories:

1. Personnel: Research associates and research assistants (may include undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers).
2. Summer salary: All investigators may request summer salary, but the cumulative maximum cannot exceed \$10,000 across all investigators.
3. Course release or reassign time with college approval (e.g., departmental chair, dean, or provost).
4. Fringe benefits.
5. Other than personnel services (OTPS) (may include): research supplies, equipment, installation, service contracts, travel and field expenses.

Important budgetary notes:

- Funds requested for course release are determined at the college level and must include applicable salary and fringe benefit rates.
- Any research personnel, including student research assistants funded by IRG awards, must complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training in compliance with federal requirements.
- Funding levels for successful proposals will depend on the budget request, the review committee's view of budgetary need, and the ranking of the proposal; in all instances, funding is subject to availability and budgetary approval.

### Submission Guidelines

Completed proposals must be submitted online through the following link: [2022 IRG](#)

Late submissions will not be considered.

### Proposal Package

The proposal must be approved and signed on the signature page by an appropriate administrative official at the applicant's college and should follow the college proposal approval process.

The entire package (proposal summary, signature page, project description, references, statement of interdisciplinary collaboration, budget, budget justification, 2-page CV/biosketch(es), and current & pending grant information for PI/co-PIs) must be converted into a single PDF for submission via the online system. A proposal template, with signature page, may be found [here](#).

Please use the following naming convention:

Theme 1: IRGCL\_LeadPILastName.pdf

Theme 2: IRGAI\_LeadPILastName.pdf

Theme 3: IRGPH\_LeadPILastName.pdf

1. Project Summary: 200 words max. Please include project title and PI and co-PI(s) names, disciplines, departments, and institutional affiliations .

2. Signature Page: Submissions must include a scanned copy of this form, including grants officer and college endorsement signatures (e.g., department chair, dean, or provost) from each participating institution. College endorsement is required only if a PI is requesting salary support or release time.

3. Project Description: Three page max, single-spaced, exclusive of references, with 1” margins and 12-point font.

What aspect of climate science, data science/artificial intelligence, or public health is being addressed? What knowledge will be generated and what outcomes are expected? Why is the project innovative? What are the future funding plans for the research (e.g., specific submissions)?

PIs should identify at least one program officer and program at a federal funding agency (e.g., DOE, NEH, NIH, NOAA or NSF) who will be or has been contacted to assess the potential of the project for further funding.

4. Statement of interdisciplinary collaboration: Clearly describe (up to 200 words) the interdisciplinary nature of the collaboration, (i.e. the role of each investigator and the interdependence of the research).

5. Statement of prior IRG award impact: If PI/co-PIs have received an IRG award in the past 3 years, clearly describe (up to 200 words) the outcomes associated with that award. Disregard if not applicable.

6. Biographical sketch: Each PI/co-PI must submit a 2-page biosketch in NSF or NIH format, or use this [template](#).

7. Proposed budget: See stipulations above.

8. Budget justification: Indicate the distribution of resources among the investigators and departments/campuses, and if funding is requested for an investigator indicate the role played by each investigator. Faculty serving primarily in a consulting capacity are not eligible to be collaborators.

9. List of current and pending funding: Each investigator must submit a list of active and pending research funding, including startup funds. This section must indicate the percent effort committed to existing/pending grants for all investigators, and the percent effort proposed for this RFP.

Proposal Evaluation

All eligible proposals will be evaluated by a CUNY review panel composed of senior faculty and administrators.

Proposals will be evaluated based on four criteria:

1. Interdependence of collaboration, creativity, and innovation of the interdisciplinary approach
2. Significance of the issue being addressed in the areas of climate science, data science/artificial intelligence, or public health
3. Technical quality and feasibility
4. Plans to receive external funding

Among other things, the review panel will consider investigator(s) demonstrated record of scholarly achievement and promise, prior publishing and funding record (commensurate with academic rank), and prior seed funding from IRG.

Submission Timetable

Complete submissions must be uploaded no later than 11:59pm EST on **Monday, December 6, 2021** by clicking the link [HERE](#)

Please direct any questions to:

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