

# DECEMBER 2019 – REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program Faculty Scholars Program

**Program Description:** The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) Faculty Scholars Program is a professional networking and development opportunity for faculty from institutes of higher learning in Illinois and Indiana who wish to develop extension, education, or communication capacities related to their scholarly interests. Applicants can request up to \$12,000 to support summer salary, travel, or other activities that further the IISG mission to empower southern Lake Michigan communities to secure a healthy environment and economy.

One of Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant's long-term goals is to help build a community of researchers and outreach professionals focused on issues of critical importance to Lake Michigan. The IISG Scholars Program is designed to help build this community by introducing researchers to a variety of Lake Michigan-related issues, including stakeholders affected by these issues. In addition, the program is intended to help the scholars develop innovative, fundable proposals for future work in the region.

Applicants must be a faculty member at an institute of higher learning in Illinois or Indiana. Those who have received an IISG Faculty Scholars grant in the past three years are not eligible for funding through the current competition.

As part of the program, scholars will:

1. Develop at least one product that can be used to support a larger proposal. Example products include an initial data set, a detailed literature review, a completed needs assessment, a description of a research protocol, or similar products. Scholars are encouraged, but not required, to work directly with IISG communication, education, outreach, and extension staff members while developing this initial product. Applicants should describe this product or suite of products in their application.
2. Participate in two networking and learning events at IISG and partner sites in and around southern Lake Michigan in 2020. During these events, scholars will interact with IISG stakeholders and staff members to 1) understand critical Lake Michigan issues, 2) understand the role IISG plays in helping address these issues, and 3) brainstorm about how scholars might support ongoing activities to address these issues. This face-to-face interaction will help scholars gain an appreciation for the challenges facing Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes region and will help the scholars develop more competitive funding proposals to work on Lake Michigan issues.

The specific dates for these events will be set in the early spring 2020, but are anticipated to be one day during the week of June 1<sup>st</sup> and one day the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Scholars must attend both events in order to receive scholars funds.

3. Develop a research proposal to be submitted to an external funding agency that combines research and outreach to address an IISG-approved topic relevant to the [IISG 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan](#). Scholars are encouraged, but not required, to work directly with IISG communication, education, outreach, and/or extension staff members while developing the proposal. The scholar should play a key role in proposal development, e.g., by serving as principal investigator or serving as main convener of the project team. Submission of this proposal to competitions for internal funds at the scholar’s university or Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant does not meet the requirement, but submission of a proposal to a competition run by the National Sea Grant Office may. Questions about which competitions are acceptable should be directed to Carolyn Foley ([cfoley@purdue.edu](mailto:cfoley@purdue.edu)).

We encourage faculty members from all disciplines to apply for the IISG Scholars Program. IISG is also committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. For this RFA, IISG specifically encourages applicants who have demonstrably recruited and engaged students or fellows from underrepresented groups (particularly those whose backgrounds may have inhibited careers in science, technology, engineering, and math), as well as those whose proposed products have potential to benefit underrepresented communities. The full IISG values statement can be found at <https://iiseagrant.org/about/about-us/>.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Carolyn Foley ([cfoley@purdue.edu](mailto:cfoley@purdue.edu)).

### **Application Materials:**

Templates and guidance for the following components can be found at:

<https://iiseagrant.org/research/funding-opportunities/templates-and-guidance-for-proposal-submissions/>. All applications must include components 1 through 6.

1. **Front matter** (1 page). Include the applicant’s name, affiliation, address, and an abstract that describes the proposed products (see 2a).
2. **Statement of interest** (4-page maximum). Statements of interest should describe why the applicant is interested in the IISG Scholars Program, how the program fits into the applicant’s career goals, and how those career goals mesh with the goals of the [IISG 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan](#). In addition, the statement of interest should include:
  - a. 1–3 potential products that the scholar could develop as a result of participating in this program. Example products include an initial data set, a detailed literature review, a completed needs assessment, a description of a research protocol, or similar products. Product descriptions should provide enough detail that reviewers can understand the areas that the applicants are interested in working, but should be written for a general audience (i.e., do not assume that the reviewers are familiar with your area of expertise). Applicants should demonstrate how development of these products corresponds with the IISG strategic plan. If applicants intend to work with IISG staff as they develop these products, the staff member(s) should be named in this section. Applicants should also provide a letter of support from named IISG staff as part of their application.

- b. A list of potential competitions that the applicant would target with the full proposal to be developed by the end of the IISG Scholars Program.
3. **Budget requests** (90-4 form plus separate budget narrative). Applicants can request summer salary, IDC, fringe, travel, printing, publication and documentation costs, etc. Up to \$10,000 can be put toward salary and associated fringe. Budgets must include travel to mandatory activities described above. Successful applicants must demonstrate 50% match (1 non-federal dollar for every 2 dollars requested; if applicants request \$12,000, they must demonstrate at least \$6,000 in non-federal match for a total of \$18,000 to go toward this work).
4. **Applicant CV** (2 pages). NSF or NIH format is acceptable.
5. **Data Management Plan** (max. 2 pages). Under NOAA directives, environmental data generated during projects funded by IISG must be verified and shared within 2 years of completion of the project. The full definition of environmental data can be found at <https://iiseagrant.org/research/principal-investigator-resources/>. If your project will not generate environmental data, state that in your application. If your project will generate environmental data, download and complete the template, and return with your application.
6. **Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire** (as many pages as needed). Download and complete the template. Answer every question considering all activities that will be completed by the applicant as part of the proposed work.
7. **Purdue University Letter of Intent Form** (1 page). Download the template specific to the Faculty Scholars 2020 competition. Not required for applicants from Purdue University and Purdue Northwest.
8. **Purdue University Entity Profile** (1 page). Download the template. Not required for applicants from Purdue University and Purdue Northwest.

**Application Deadline:**

Submit materials to [iisgres@purdue.edu](mailto:iisgres@purdue.edu) by 5 p.m. Central Time on March 13, 2020. Include “2020 Faculty Scholars Competition” in the subject line.

**Application Review:**

The application materials will be reviewed by an external panel based on the following criteria:

- Consistency of applicant's proposed work with IISG's strategic priorities. Applicants whose work is not directly related to Lake Michigan are encouraged to apply, but the application must demonstrate the potential for impactful work in the area in the future.
- Appropriateness of proposed budget.
- Applicant's previous academic and professional record.
- Overall likelihood of developing a successful proposal to an external funding agency.
- Overall likelihood of developing products that help IISG achieve strategic plan goals.

The external panel will be comprised of applied research, extension and communication personnel plus key stakeholders who work in the topic areas the PI is interested in working in (e.g., natural resources agency personnel, community planners, members of the IISG advisory committee). After the panelists have evaluated the applicants' suitability for program admission, IISG administration will review the strongest applicants and select scholars, based on the external reviewers' scores and consistency with IISG strategic plan and programmatic goals.

**Program Timeline:**

- March 13, 2020: Initial applications due to IISG
- April 2020: Review of initial applications and notification of scholars
- May 8, 2020: Final versions of all materials requested of successful scholar applicants due to IISG
- June 1, 2020: Project initiation date
- June–September, 2020: Phase 1, including two day-long networking events and development of at least one product in support of a larger proposal
- September 25, 2020: Phase 1 product due
- October 2020–April 2021: Phase 2, including potential for further interactions with IISG staff members and additional professional development activity(ies)
- May 31, 2021: Final proposals completed or already submitted to an external funding agency