
USCB Sea Islands Institute Grants for 2023 Call for Proposals

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Tuesday November 1, 2022

Mission and Purpose of the USCB Sea Islands Institute: The mission of the Sea Islands Institute (SII) is to promote programs and scholarship that grow out of the extraordinary location of USCB, which includes the region's rich history, strong and multiple cultures, and fragile environments worth protecting. The SII is interdisciplinary, providing outreach, scholarship, and education services that support sustainability of our treasured community. The SII combines the expertise of local scholars and outside partners in an effort to sustain the region's economic, ecological, social, and cultural vitality.

Sea Islands Institute Grants for 2023: The South Carolina Lowcountry, like regions around the world, confronts challenges related to human health, education, housing, sustainability, infrastructure, transportation, technology, and societal welfare in general. In a rapidly changing world, a synthesis of ideas is required to develop new ideas and solve complex problems. In the diverse expertise of its faculty, USCB is uniquely equipped to address these challenges.

The Sea Islands Institute Grants awarded for 2023 will prioritize diverse teams of faculty who will tackle challenges facing our citizenry and environment. Applicants are encouraged to address specific challenges by combining expertise across disciplines. The SII Grants may provide seed funding for projects that will become competitive for external funding.

Eligibility: All tenured and tenure-track USCB faculty are eligible to apply.

Awards: Grant proposals should establish a regional context for scholarship in line with the Sea Islands Institute's mission. Grants may be funded up to \$5,000, but budgets must be carefully explained and justified. (See Grant Review Process below.) The committee reserves the right to alter the award amount depending on the quality of the budget justification. The award year will be from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. (Extensions may be requested if necessary but awards are not intended as multi-year grants.) For 2023, up to 3 awards are available, each up to \$5,000.

Application Procedure: Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf or Word document. If extra images are necessary for review (e.g., photos of an art installation) an appendix may be included, but the appendix should not be used to circumvent the length restriction. Proposals should be submitted prior to 5pm on Tuesday November 1, 2022, at:

https://www.uscb.edu/academics/research/sea_islands_institute/sii-grants/index.html

Format: The narrative of the proposal should be no more than 3 pages of single-spaced text, using an 11-point font (Times New Roman or Arial) and 1-inch margins. Sections to be included in the narrative are *Background, Goals and Objectives, Methodology* and *Expected Results*.

In addition to the narrative, a complete application must include:

1. CVs of no more than 3 pages each for themselves and any listed consultants or collaborators
2. A list of all current and pending support, including the title, sponsor, amount requested/awarded, project dates, and goals/objectives for each funded or pending grant or contract
3. A detailed budget as described below, including as needed: personnel (salary and fringe benefits), travel, supplies, small equipment, consultants/contractual obligations, and other expenses. See below for allowable and non-allowable expenses.

4. A budget justification, detailing the need for each item requested in the context of the proposed project

Grant Review Process: Submitted proposals undergo a competitive review. Reviews will be conducted by the Sea Islands Institute Steering Committee, as appointed by the EVCAA, and coordinated by the Director of Research. Applications must exhibit evidence that the proposal has local relevance, and that it conforms to appropriate standards for scholarship in its discipline. The project should be well planned, feasible, and realistically budgeted. In evaluating applications, the following factors will be considered, and applications will be ranked by score for funding:

Priority points for interdisciplinary research (5 points): Proposals based on interdisciplinary research projects will receive five extra priority points.

Background, Goals, and Objectives (10 points): Provide enough background information to place your goals and objectives in the larger context of the field of study. The goal of the project should be clear and relevant to the Lowcountry region. Objectives should be assessable by either quantitative or qualitative means. The scope of the project should be reasonable for a one-year award period.

Methodology and Expected Results (10 points): Enough information about methodology should be provided that reviewers can determine the likelihood of success of the project in the time frame provided. If methods that are not standard to your field are to be used, provide literature references. Explain how the objectives will be assessed, what results you expect to obtain, and how those results will be used for future work and/or publication.

Budget and budget justification (10 points): Budgets should be appropriate to the project, not too high or too low. Everything listed should be truly necessary to accomplish your objectives, and nothing that is truly necessary should be left out. If something is needed but not listed in the budget, explain where it will come from and how you will pay for it (belongs to a collaborator, to be purchased from other funding, etc.). Allowable expenses are: hourly wages and benefits for student assistants or other temporary workers, supplies, small equipment, consultants and contractors, travel, and other (e.g. small value incentives for participants, publication costs). Any food included must be for individuals who are not employees of the state of South Carolina (e.g., food for workshops, training, participant incentives and meetings involving attendees not employed by the state). Not allowed: USCB faculty salaries, tuition and fees for students, and entertainment expenses.

End of Project Report: The grant recipient must submit a written summary of results to the USCB Director of Research at the end of the award period. If a new proposal is to be submitted for the next award period, the report must be received before the due date for the new proposal. If the funded project is presented and/or published, the presentation or publication should include the acknowledgement that the research was conducted with support from the USCB Sea Islands Institute.