



TUFTS CREATE SOLUTIONS: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Flagship Publications

Presenting Climate Solutions Scholarship

Proposal Due Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 11:59 PM

With support from Tufts University's Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) by way of the Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan (RSSP), CREATE Solutions is pleased to invite proposals from Tufts doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty for the preparation of a flagship publication under the banner of CREATE Solutions.

*Please note that this is a call for **publication proposals**. A separate call has gone out for seed grants.*

About Tufts CREATE Solutions

[Tufts CREATE \(Climate, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Technology, and Ecology\) Solutions](#) is an initiative that builds on Tufts' strong research programs in climate, renewable energy, sustainability, agriculture, technology, policy, economics, and ecology. The mission of CREATE Solutions is to develop solutions to the global climate change emergency by fostering transdisciplinary research collaboration across all schools at Tufts. Our research responds to the integrated nature of the technical, environmental, and societal challenges we face. We aim to develop innovative approaches to prevent catastrophic climate change, increase resilience to the climate change already occurring, advance the low-carbon transition, and educate a new generation of leaders who can generate new knowledge and provide solutions.

About the Flagship Series

The CREATE Solutions flagship publication series aims to be a "how-to" series for a range of climate-related topics. The goal is to elucidate how research at Tufts can contribute solutions to climate-related issues. Syntheses of existing scholarly research that clarifies what we know about how to address particular climate problems would also be within the scope of the series. We welcome proposals from interdisciplinary teams of graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty (proposal lead must be doctoral level or higher). This funding is intended for teams of researchers who have completed the vast majority of the scholarship necessary to put together the paper, and who are prepared to start immediately with writing.

Eligibility

Any Tufts doctoral student, postdoctoral scholar, or faculty member active in scholarship and research with a primary appointment at Tufts University is eligible to apply. Project proposals led by doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars must have a faculty advisor.

Project Period and Budget

Project Duration: Applicants should be prepared to see their work through to the final production and design phase in the next 3–9 months. Selected applicants can expect to be notified by December 23, 2020. Applicants should set out a timeline in their application and adhere to it unless formal approval of program period extension is received and approved.

Budget: While budget proposals of any amount will be accepted, recommended budgets for flagship publication funding range from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

Review Criteria

- Intellectual merit. The proposed publication must clearly explain a solution to a climate-related problem that derives from scholarly activities.
- Degree of collaboration across traditional disciplines, with a preference for cross-disciplinary teams, rather than individuals.
- Readiness to enter writing stage. Because we are seeking projects ready to enter the writing and publication stage, researchers should have existing findings outlined in the proposal.
- Level of innovation and originality (within academic field and/or Tufts community).
- The extent to which the project raises the reputation of Tufts University as leaders that develop solutions that address climate-related concerns.
- Feasibility of timeline.
- Appropriateness of budget allocations.
- Impact on Tufts as measured in part by the degree to which the collaboration promises to lead to other important outcomes.

Award Conditions

Funds may be used to support reasonable and necessary direct costs to carry out the project. We expect the majority of costs to support the salaries for students or other scholars contributing their time to the writing of the publication. Researchers should also account for the time involved in seeing the project through the layout and design phase to final proofs, but need not budget for

professional design or printing, as this aspect will be paid for out of the main CREATE Solutions budget and supported by CREATE Solutions staff. Deviations from the proposed expenditures must be approved by the proposal review committee. The lead researcher or faculty advisor will be financially responsible for managing the award. Funds will be disbursed to the School, department, or center with which the lead researcher or faculty advisor is primarily affiliated. 80% of the funding will be provided upon award, and the final 20% of funding will be disbursed upon completion of final digital proofs of the publication.

Funds can only be used for the activities described in the proposal, although no-cost extensions and/or re-budgeting with appropriate justification may be requested.

Expenditures for faculty, researcher, and student salaries are permitted according to school unit policies and appropriate approval for each collaborator. Fringe benefits charges for personnel should be included in preparing the budget. Student pay during the summer will be subject to the applicable rate for fringe benefits and this cost should be included in the budget. Student pay during the academic year (September–May) is not subject to fringe benefits.

Generally, the budget *cannot* be used to pay for:

- Indirect costs and overhead
- Computers
- Student Health Insurance
- Alcohol

Recipients are required to comply with all relevant Tufts policies in relation to [allowable expenses](#). The proposal review committee maintains the right to deny any budget item it deems unallowable. Equipment purchases are discouraged but will be considered on an ad hoc basis. Proposed budgets may be subject to modifications prior to award. Funds awarded are subject to relevant University, state and federal guidelines. Please refer to the [Tufts IP Policy](#) for questions regarding intellectual property. If you are publishing the results of research with human subjects, your research must have undergone [IRB review](#).

Reporting Requirements

By 2 months after grant start date, grant recipients must make a brief presentation to the CREATE Solutions faculty research leadership team, which is intended to convey progress and allow for feedback on the project's continuation, completion, and dissemination.

By the grant end date, the final proofs of the publication should be ready for distribution.

Proposal Requirements and Submission

Deadline for Submission: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 11:59 PM

Submission: By email to createsolutions@tufts.edu

Content: Proposals must include the following sections in Word or PDF format, with the Budget Form attached as a writable Excel file:

- I. **Proposal Document** (please use the [template provided](#))
 - a. **Cover Page**
 - b. **Project Description** (no more than two single-spaced pages). Describe the proposed project including goals, background, team members, and a timeline. Describe how the project matches against the above-mentioned review criteria.
 - c. **Budget Justification** (no more than one single-spaced page). Describe each budget item, any in-kind contributions to the project from any other grant, school, or department, and any previous funding provided by the OVPR for this or related projects.
- II. **Budget Form** (please use the [template provided](#))
- III. **CVs.** Include a CV for each significant collaborator

Review Process: The CREATE Solutions Faculty Research Leadership Team will serve as the review committee evaluating submitted proposals and expects to make funding decisions by December 23, 2020. Any Faculty Research Leadership Team member who submits a proposal will recuse themselves from the review of that proposal and identify another relevant faculty member to serve as an evaluator. For questions or to submit a proposal, please contact createsolutions@tufts.edu.