

Institute for Applied Sustainability

at

Southern Oregon University

2024 - 2025 Faculty Fellows Program

Call for Proposals

Applications Due April 1, 2024

The mission of the Institute for Applied Sustainability (IAS) is to bring together scholars and practitioners to advance knowledge, lead, and collaborate to create solutions for a beautiful future.

The Faculty Fellows Program

The Institute for Applied Sustainability (IAS) leads a Faculty Fellows Program to support SOU faculty initiatives that center on sustainability, broadly defined. Proposals for projects in all stages of development and from all disciplines will be considered. As a faculty fellow, you will be supported with funds that may be flexibly used to support your sustainability-related scholarship, teaching, and professional pursuits. Typical fellowship funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Uses for the funds will vary by project and discipline but might include equipment, travel, course release (requires chair/director approval), hiring research assistants, community demonstrations, summer funding, and the like. Creativity and big think are encouraged, as are local solutions to local needs.

Faculty fellows are an integral part of the Institute and thus should expect to curate and participate in meaningful collaborations with other fellows and partners in ways that further the mission of the Institute. If selected, expect to regularly engage in collaborative meetings and to produce an annual report of your activities.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The Faculty Fellows program is open to all SOU faculty (.5 FTE or greater) in all disciplines. Only sustainability-related proposals, broadly defined, are eligible. The Faculty Fellows program is for twelve months beginning mid-September. Previous Faculty Fellows are eligible to apply.

Applicants will be selected based on the proposed projects' alignment with the IAS mission, project coherence and feasibility, and the perceived benefit to the applicant, IAS, SOU, and the wider-community. When writing your proposal, keep in mind that applications will be reviewed by faculty, students, and staff from a range of disciplines. Specifics regarding the scoring of proposals is attached to the application.

Application Procedures

1. Submit your project proposal by email to Kira Welch, IAS Coordinator (welchk1@sou.edu) by the deadline listed at the top of the page.
2. The application instructions page contains word count limits and specific guidelines.
3. Contact Kira Welch, IAS Coordinator (welchk1@sou.edu) or Bret Anderson, IAS Faculty and Academic Director (andersob6@sou.edu) with any questions.
4. Applicants will be notified of decisions as early as possible, but you can expect to be notified by late April or early May.

APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

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Applicants will be selected based on the proposed projects' alignment with the IAS mission, project coherence and feasibility, and benefit to the applicant, Institute, SOU, and the wider community. When writing your proposal, keep in mind that applications will be reviewed by faculty, students, and staff from a range of disciplines. Applicants are encouraged to review the scoring rubric that is attached to the application and to visit the IAS website to familiarize themselves with the mission and vision (<https://sustainability.sou.edu/institute/>).

Please submit the following as a single PDF to welchk1@sou.edu.

1. Cover Page

- a. *Project title, your name, and email address*
- b. *250 word abstract written so that an audience from a range of disciplines can understand the project objectives and impact.*

2. Project Narrative (3 page limit)

a. Project description

Describe the sustainability-centered scholarship you propose to engage in as a faculty fellow. What is the rationale and what are the objectives of the project? How does it align with the mission and values of the Institute? What makes this work important, relevant, and or needed? How will you accomplish this project (methods)?

b. Faculty fellowship in the context of your career

Contextualize your proposed activities in the larger context of your scholarship (current and future). How will this fellowship advance your scholarship?

c. Projected timeline

To the extent possible, provide a timeline of proposed activities, goalposts, or outcomes.

d. Expected partnerships

List any partners that may be involved in the proposed activities and describe their level of engagement. Note that letters of support may be appended to the end of the application.

3. Budget (1 page limit)

To the extent possible, provide an estimated budget and brief justification of expenses.

4. Additional Attachments

Applicants may choose to attach additional supporting documents as necessary. Additional attachments may include letters of support from potential collaborators or partners, statements of support from their department chair or school director (required if requesting course release), or other relevant materials.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

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- Alignment with IAS mission
- Project coherence and feasibility
- Perceived benefit to the applicant, IAS, SOU, and the wider-community

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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- **How many meetings and how much time should I expect to commit beyond my proposed project?**
 - The Faculty Fellows program does require some amount of engagement with IAS in addition to your proposed project work. Faculty fellows can expect quarterly meetings with external partners, bi-weekly or monthly fellows meet ups, and perhaps quarterly events that support the work of IAS.
- **How much should I budget for a course release?**
 - Course releases are a permitted use of the faculty fellows funds. Exact amounts will depend on individual salary and rank and range from \$8,000 - \$15,000. Applicants are encouraged to work closely with their department chair and school directors on proposed course releases.
- **Can I hire a student to support this proposed work?**
 - Yes, you may include support for undergraduate and graduate students in your budget.
- **Who should I contact if I need some help pinning down anticipated costs for my budget?**
 - Department chairs and school directors may be a good starting point for budgeting release time and for salary-specific costs. For additional help, the IAS coordinator can help you find answers.
- **What if my proposal is for a multi-year project? What if it is a continuation of my work in previous years?**
 - This type of proposal is encouraged. However, the Faculty Fellows program is annual, so please be clear in your proposal how the coming year as a faculty fellow will fit into the larger picture of your work.