

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA - AUBURN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS IN AQUACULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OUC-AU JOINT CENTER GRANT PROGRAM 2019

The Purpose of the Program

Ocean University of China (OUC, Qingdao, Shandong Province, China) is a leading university in China with particular strengths in oceanography and fisheries science. Auburn University (AU, Auburn, Alabama, USA) is a land, sea and space grant university renowned for its strong programs in fisheries, aquaculture and environmental sciences. Both institutions are dedicated to advancing research and education in aquaculture and environmental sciences and have developed long term academic partnerships in these disciplines. Building on their existing relationship and shared vision, OUC and AU have recently established the “OUC-AU Joint Center for Aquaculture and Environmental Sciences” (Joint Center). The goal of this Joint Center is to promote collaborations between the two institutions in research and education in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture, and the effects of environment on them.

The OUC-AU grants program is a key element of the Joint Center. The purpose of this program (Request for Proposals) is to facilitate and strengthen research collaborations in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture and the effects of environment on them by providing seed funding support. Funded projects will stimulate research collaborations between OUC and AU scientists in the priority areas listed below. Specific objectives of proposals should be to develop, facilitate and expand research collaborations between OUC and AU scientists. This program is to be viewed as a source of funding to initiate or stimulate a research project, not as a primary source of research support. Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to seek funding for additional research support from extramural sources.

Priority Areas

The OUC-AU Joint Center for Aquaculture and Environmental Sciences aims to stimulate collaborative research in both broadly defined disciplines. All research topics involving fisheries and aquaculture, and the effects of environment on them, might be acceptable.

Eligibility

A proposal must be jointly authored by scientists from both institutions (i.e. PIs/Co-PIs must include at least one scientist from each institution). All investigators must have an appointment at OUC or AU. PIs/Co-PIs at AU must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members with an Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) appointment. Contracted and non-tenure track faculty members at AU may serve as Co-Investigator (Co-I) on proposals but only tenured or tenure-track members can serve as PI/Co-PIs.

DEFINITIONS

- Principal Investigator (PI) - is defined as the individual who will be responsible for the scientific or technical direction of a project, as well as reporting requirements.
- Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI) - is an individual who has responsibilities similar to that of a PI. While the PI has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of a project, the Co-PI is also responsible for the scientific or technical direction of the project.

- Co-Investigator (Co-I) - is an individual involved with the PI/Co-PI in the scientific development or execution of a project. The Co-I or collaborator does not have the responsibilities of a PI or Co-PI.

Project Duration

All awards are for the duration of one year. Research goals and plans for the year must be clearly described in the proposal. In addition to that for the first year, applicants may propose a research plan for up to three years. Receiving an award does not guarantee funding for subsequent years. The funding for all projects for additional year(s) depends on the demonstration of progress and availability of funds.

Cost Share

Cost share is not required.

Proposal Application Guideline

Each grant proposal must include one PI from OUC or AU and a Co - PI from the other institution, and provide evidence that the project will have a high probability of success in terms of leveraging of extramural funding. Maximum funding per proposal is \$75,000. Up to 9 proposals may be funded in this category.

All proposals must be written in English and Chinese. Proposals are limited to 6 single-spaced pages. Proposals must be formatted using 8½ x 11 inch pages with 1 inch margins, 12 point font, and should consist of the following sections:

- a) Title; PI and all co-PIs, affiliations and contact information.
- b) A project summary.
- c) A proposal narrative - containing justification for the work, objectives, experimental approach, timeline, expected results and outcomes, and plans for leveraging of funds.
- d) Anticipated products – containing a description of anticipated publications, patents, and grant proposals that are based on the proposed project. The types and amounts of expected products for each project must be clearly stated. Products are expected to be completed within two years of the termination date of the grant. Publications based on the joint projects must be coauthored by scientists from both universities and acknowledge the support of the OUC-AU Joint Center.

The following sections must be included in the proposal, but not count toward the page limit:

- e) References cited in the narrative.
- f) Budget (**use budget form from web site**) and Budget justification (for all elements of the budget). Note that the budget for grant proposal can include a portion of summer salary of the AU PI/Co-PI (if applicable). Budget must include separate columns for investigators/activities at each institution (see budget form-only one year budget is required).
- g) Letters of commitment/support from PI/Co-PI/Co-I/potential partner(s) from both institutions with expressed commitment to the proposed project (i.e., personnel, infrastructure, etc.).
- h) **AU PIs must also submit the AU routing sheet on web site) signed by their dean or dean's representative.** This form should be submitted as a PDF separate from the proposal.

Proposal Submission

Please email your application packet including appropriate signatures, all in a single pdf file to ogp@auburn.edu by August 15th, 2019.

Proposal Review and Evaluation

The Advisory Committee of the OUC-AU Joint Center will provide oversight for proposal evaluation. This committee includes representatives from the participating colleges/schools at both institutions. Proposals will be peer-reviewed using appropriate AU/AAES grants review process. A technical review panel which will include scientists from OUC, AU and other equivalent institutions, will be selected considering representation of expertise of research areas to evaluate the proposals. The final results of the proposal review will be concluded by the director of the joint center based on the scores of the review panels from both institutions.

Award Notification

At the completion of the evaluation process, the lead PI will be notified of the panel decision. In case of funding, the PI will be provided further instructions on release of funds. Requirements for release of funds may include approvals for work with animals, human subjects, hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA (where appropriate).

Project Progress Report

Two progress reports are required. The first is due within three months of the termination date of the grant. It should be a maximum of six pages in length and include a summary of the research results and a description of any work products (publications, patents, grant proposals) based on the funded work that are either completed or being prepared. The second report is due within two years of the termination date of the grant and include a list of published papers, patents, and submitted grant proposals based on the funded work.

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<http://agriculture.auburn.edu/academics/global-programs/ouc-au-collaboration/>