

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Fall 2022 Lamont Climate & Life Fellows Program

KEY DATES

Deadline to Submit Proposal	Friday, July 22, 2022 (by 5 PM EDT)
Award Notification	Monday, August 22, 2022
Funding Start Date	Thursday, September 1, 2022

QUESTIONS may be directed to climateandlife@ldeo.columbia.edu

Funding Opportunity

The Lamont Climate and Life Fellows Program (LC&L) supports Lamont scientists and their research to advance innovative, interdisciplinary research that informs solutions to the climate crisis.

The Lamont Directorate is requesting proposals to fund urgent and impactful research that will deepen our understanding of how climate affects human sustainability and provide expert analysis on climate impacts and solutions.

The Fellows Program grants our scientists the freedom to think deeply and creatively about how they can contribute knowledge for the public good. Our goal is to focus our considerable talent and resources on accelerating our understanding of how changes in climate and life systems impact the essentials of human sustainability.

A signature element of LC&L-funded projects is that they pursue high-risk, high-return and innovative research that may otherwise not be funded by federal agencies. This criterion invites scientists to pursue new, potentially transformative ideas that will eventually be suitable for subsequent federal support. Research projects can address past or present phenomena.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Eligibility

The Lamont Climate and Life Fellows Program invites proposals from all professional officers of research in the LRP and Research Scientist tracks up to, but excluding the rank of Senior Research Scientist or Lamont Research Professor. Post-docs and DEES faculty are not eligible.

We intend to fund at least four Climate and Life Fellow awards this round. Proposals that include research across divisions, achieving cross-disciplinarity within Lamont will also be considered. A single member of the team should be designated as the lead PI (Fellow).

Please note: Climate and Life Fellowships may impact eligibility for incentive earnings and summer salary, as described by the qualification criteria given in the Lamont Research Professor Handbook. We recommend that all Lamont Research Professors familiarize themselves with these policies prior to seeking a fellowship and plan accordingly. For FY23, please know we are actively trying to modify these eligibility rules.

Review Criteria and Process

- *Relevance*: Research that will deepen our understanding of how climate affects human sustainability and offer expert analysis on climate impacts and potential solutions.
- *Quality*: Clear, well-articulated proposal, with evident promise for success and impact.
- *Innovation*: Novel, creative, risky research that may not yet be suitable for federal funding.

An ad-hoc committee representing LC&L will review and rank all proposals based on the above criteria. Awards are determined based on these reviews, likelihood for success, and promise to advance new knowledge that deepens our understanding of climate impacts and potential solutions.

Proposal Guidelines

The text should describe your proposed project in no more than 3 pages (single spaced, 1.5” margins, no smaller than 11-point font), including all references and figures. Please address the following areas also addressing Review Criteria themes:

1. Objectives and background: What is the central idea or question addressed by the proposed research? What is the current state of knowledge of the problem, and how is it relevant to our understanding of climate impacts on human sustainability and potential solutions?
2. Proposed Research: Outline the research strategy, analytical methods, and proposed research. How will this three-year project answer the proposed question? A research timeline is less important than a compelling plan for significant, impactful results.
3. Anticipated Results: What new results do you expect to develop with this project that will significantly advance our knowledge? How will this work produce useful or actionable information for society? If appropriate, proposals should address how this work fits with your other existing or planned research projects.
4. Justification for LC&L support: Briefly explain why this project merits support from the Lamont Climate and Life Program. Please address why the project would not be eligible for funding through available federal programs. You may separately attach reviews or program manager comments from declined, previously submitted proposals to support your statement.

Budget

Please use the “LC&L_Budget_FY23_RFP.xlsx” file to submit budget expenses. The budget should include 33% salary effort per year (3/9 months or 4/12 months annual support). Research funding can be up to 20% of requested PI salary per year and expense categories should be detailed. Unusual items in the budget should be explained. Computers are generally not allowable expenses. No ICR rate should be calculated for budget submission. Indirect cost recovery will be calculated and added to the budgets after proposals have been awarded. Please submit budget as a separate excel file.

Current CV

Present in 2-page NSF-format, with up to 10 relevant publications.

Current and Pending Support

Please provide a summary of your current and pending support from other sources.