Request for Proposals:
Extensions of Research Leave

Submission Due Date
December 8, 2020 (5:00pm EST)

Awards Announced
January 29, 2021

SUMMARY

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) brings together scientists, engineers, artists, and designers to tackle some of the world's most complex challenges. Powered by advanced technology and networks of talented and creative people, ICAT supports teams of faculty and students from across academic disciplines to address particular needs, ranging from large societal problems to industry-specific challenges. ICAT studies process, including education, arts and design integration, and the translation of research into practice.

ICAT invites applications to supplement or extend planned research leave of faculty by providing semester matching funds to home departments. These funds can be used to extend research leave by a semester for faculty pursuing a range of transdisciplinary activities including creative projects, pilot studies, feasibility studies, or preliminary research. In addition to supplementing or extending faculty research leave, ICAT will also provide $5,000.00 in funding to support undergraduate student research.

ELIGIBLE INVESTIGATORS

Tenured faculty members, or faculty members on continued appointment, with the rank of assistant professor or higher, holding full-time faculty appointments and having accrued a minimum of six years of service, are eligible to request research leave from their home departments in accordance with university faculty policies.

ICAT seeks to diversify affiliated faculty along multiple dimensions. ICAT is dedicated to InclusiveVT — serving in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members.

FUNDING INFORMATION

- Funds will be awarded for Fall 2021 or Spring 2022.
- Funds will be transferred to the recipient's home department to administer.

AREAS OF ICAT RESEARCH INTEREST

Proposals should involve two or more of the following areas represented by the institute:

Designing a More Sustainable World - Creativity that spurs change. This work supports our ecological and cultural resilience.

Empowering Data - Pioneering new possibilities with data. Projects explore and present data in some unexpected and surprising ways, introducing new perspectives that can pave the way for lifechanging discoveries.

Making Big Discoveries with Immersive Technologies - Immersive technologies are changing the research landscape. These projects use visual design, 3D modeling, animation, programming, motion capture integration, and true 360-degree sound to open up entire new worlds of exploration and discovery.

Amplifying the Arts - Art and technology continually define and redefine our world. The collision of art, technology, and experimentation drive innovation in all directions. These projects demonstrate how technology can advance artistic practice and how art and design can elevate and improve scientific discovery and output.

Engaging Community - Science should be available to everyone. Research shouldn't be hidden in labs and buried on computer hard drives. Interactive technology brings data to life and tells the stories of researchers and their work, while sculptures and other works of art show data and computational processes in unexpected, captivating, and often very accessible ways.

Reimagining Education - These projects create educational environments that prepare students to confidently enter a world requiring creativity, adaptability, and collaboration. This work is changing where students learn, what students learn, and how students learn.

Bridging Physical Distance - With the propagation of the COVID-19 pandemic, what was once a matter of convenience is now a requirement. These projects go far beyond videoconferencing software and include the use of augmented and virtual reality technologies to bring people from around the world together in shared immersive digital spaces to connect, learn, and experience.

Creating the Future of Work - Advances in technology are changing the ways we work. From the aesthetics, functionality, and even physical locations of our workplaces to the ways we collaborate with our co-workers and communicate with our clients, these projects focus on efficiency, productivity, and value.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Email a PDF copy of your submission including cover page with all necessary signatures to Holly Williams at **hmccall@vt.edu** by 5:00pm on December 8, 2020.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposal Document: Please address each section in your proposal using Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Proposal should be limited to 5 pages, including images.

T Times New Roman
12 pt

limited to
5 pages (including images)

Complete faculty	- Faculty Name, Email, Home Department;
	- Proposed budget
	    • If applying for an additional semester of leave, please indicate the dollar amount of your current AY salary that must be covered
	    • If applying for any type of research leave supplement, please include an itemized list and amount of the request
	- Copy of application letter to the provost's office including detailed description of the proposed leave or other scholarly project, location of activity, and relevance of the activity in contributing to the faculty member's own scholarly research program

Statement of Need/ Project Description	- Statement of innovation - Linkage to ICAT research areas (see second page) - Where project work will happen and if technical resources from ICAT are needed - Describe in detail how you will involve undergraduate students in your research - Describe how this work will create an enduring change to ICAT or the larger Virginia Tech community
Methods and Strategies	- Describe the activities that will be conducted as part of your research leave

Goals and Objectives	- Describe the overall outcome your project aims to achieve
	- Describe project outputs
	- Describe plans for future funding, exhibition, etc.
Engagement with ICAT and University Community	- Describe envisioned engagement with the VT community in support of ICAT
	- Examples include but are not limited to workshops, concerts, installations
Plan for Evaluating Project Success	- Describe how you will determine if your project has been successful
	- Describe anticipated outcomes and deliverables
Timeline	- Timeline should begin with fall academic semester 2021 or spring academic semester 2022

REVIEW CRITERIA

The proposals will be reviewed by the Institute Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, and faculty reviewers, and then evaluated based on the following criteria:

1 Intellectual merit and innovation

2 Interdisciplinary nature of the faculty's work

3 Link to the ICAT mission

4 Broader impact of the research

5 Potential channels to advance the proposed research

6 Clear outcome, deliverables, engagement plan

After the proposals are reviewed, the applicant may be asked to meet with the review committee.

Awards will be announced by January 29, 2021.