

2021 ATBC SEED RESEARCH GRANT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

As part of [ATBC's mission](#) to promote excellence in the next generation of tropical biologists, the ATBC offers Seed Research Grants to support graduate student research projects addressing tropical biology and conservation. In 2020, the inaugural year of the Seed Research Grant program, the ATBC funded 10 students from seven countries. Read about their exciting research [here](#).

Awards and Allowable Expenses

Grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded and may be used for travel (domestic or international), lodging, meals, and other research-related expenses. Funds cannot be used to purchase permanent equipment (e.g., computers, cameras, etc.), but consumable supplies are allowed.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be an ATBC member at the time of application. If you are not already a member, you can join [here](#). Prices for student membership vary from USD \$15-\$45. If you are unable to cover those costs, please send a letter explaining your situation and requesting an ATBC membership waiver to the [ATBC's Executive Director \(Dr. Lucia Lohmann\)](#).
- Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree program (Master's or Doctoral). For Doctoral students, applications will be accepted from students in their first three years of their Ph.D. program; a letter of reference from the student's advisor should attest to this.
- Applicants are only eligible for one ATBC Seed Research Grant per graduate degree program.

Evaluation Criteria

Efforts will be made to distribute awards evenly across applicants from different geographic regions and among groups under-represented in STEM. Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the ATBC Grants & Awards Committee based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Significance of the proposed research

- Description of the proposed research, placed in the broader context of tropical biology and conservation
- Description of the significance of the proposed research and its contributions to tropical biology and conservation

2. Intellectual merit and conceptual framework

- Demonstration of the student's understanding of the background scientific theory and findings
- Quality and significance of research questions being addressed and/or hypotheses being tested
- Clarity of description and appropriateness of the proposed methods for addressing the research questions and hypotheses
- Potential for new discoveries, data generation, and/or development of new research methods

3. Feasibility and budget justification

- Demonstration that the project is achievable and likely to be successful within the given timeframe and budget
- Consistency and coherence between the scope of the work described in the proposal and the requested budget

4. Broader Impacts

- Description of strategies for disseminating results to a broader audience, including the local community where the research is being conducted, and for the involvement and training of local researchers, students, educators, and/or conservation biologists/managers
- Quality and creativity of outreach or scientific communication activities
- Description of how any students involved in the project will be mentored and trained

Application Requirements

1. Application form (online): Includes student's full legal name, email address, home institution, degree program, project title, location of field work, total amount of funds requested, and **250-word abstract**. Demographic information may optionally be shared to allow ATBC to assess its diversity and inclusion goals.

2. Research proposal: Should be a maximum length of 3 pages, using single line spacing, 1-inch margins, and a minimum of 11-point font, including all figures and tables. Note that figures and tables are encouraged but will count towards the 3-page limit. Figures and Tables should not be made so small as to be unreadable. Please explicitly include the following information, ideally in specifically named sections.

- Introduction/Background
- Research questions and/or hypotheses
- Methods and Study Design (e.g., description of the study site/organism, approaches to data collection and analysis, and any other details necessary to evaluate the proposed research)
- Expected outcomes of the research, including a description of how the proposed project activities specifically address the research questions and/or hypotheses
- Research significance and contribution to ATBC's mission
- Broader impacts and integration with local research efforts and researchers at or near the study site
- Timeline of proposed activities

3. References cited: A list of all references cited in the Research Proposal. References are limited to two pages, using single line spacing, 1-inch margins, and a minimum of 11-point font. This section does not count towards the 3-page limit for the Research Proposal.

4. Budget and justification: Should include an itemized list of proposed expenses, with a brief justification of how each expense contributes to and is required to conduct the proposed activities.

5. CV: Include a 2-page curriculum vita. Please do not include personal information, such as marital status, identity card numbers, or photos.

6. Letter of support: One letter of support from the student's current graduate advisor indicating: **a)** whether the student is making sufficient progress towards the degree and is capable of successfully carrying out the proposed project and **b)** whether the student is within the first three years of their graduate degree.

Submission instructions

- The online application form should be completed in full; access the application at <https://tropicalbiology.org/seed2021>.
- Document numbers 2-5 listed above in the Application Requirements, should be combined in **one single PDF file** named as per this example: 'LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_SRA-2021.pdf'. If the legal name consists of a single name, then name the file as 'NAME_SRA-2021.pdf'. The file should be uploaded in the online application.
- The **letter of support** should be named as per this example: 'LETTER_APPLICANT'S LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_SRA-2021.pdf' or 'LETTER_APPLICANT'S NAME_SRA-2021.pdf' in the case of a single legal name. Letters should be uploaded by the student's graduate advisor or collaborator through a link they will receive by email after the applicant has completed the online application.

Additional information

Awards will be made at the virtual ATBC 2021 meeting to be held July 21-23, 2021. Recipients are encouraged to attend the annual meeting in order to receive the award. Recipients are expected and responsible for obtaining all research permits required by the country where the research is conducted. Applicants are expected to abide by the [ATBC Resolution on Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Reporting

Students are required to submit a 2-page report summarizing major research findings, challenges, and images, plus an itemized financial report detailing expenses, with a short description of how each expense contributed to the project. Procedures for submitting these reports will be provided after awards are made. Selected awardees may be asked to write a short blog for the ATBC website.

Deadline for all application materials: April 15, 2021

Questions should be directed to:

Sabrina Russo (srusso2@unl.edu); Chair of the Grants and Awards Committee), with the subject "ATBC Seed Grant Question"