

**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT
LDEO Climate & Life Fellows Program**

KEY DATES

Deadline to Submit Letter of Intent (LOI)	Friday, 10/23/2020 @ 5 p.m. ET
Notification to Submit Full Proposal	Friday, 11/06/2020
Deadline to Submit Full Proposal	Friday, 12/04/2020 @ 5 p.m. ET
Award Notification	Friday, 12/18/2020
Funding Start Date	Friday, 01/01/2021

QUESTIONS may be directed to Jean Leote at leote@ldeo.columbia.edu

Funding Opportunity

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

C&L is requesting Letters of Intent (LOI) 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 to accelerate the knowledge we need to understand how changes in climate and life systems impact the essentials of human sustainability.

A signature element of C&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

The submission process will begin with a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to the formal proposal submission. The LDEO C&L Advisory Board will review LOI submissions and invite select candidates to submit a full proposal. Final proposals will be due Monday, November 30, 5 p.m. ET.

We intend to fund two Climate and Life Fellows this round. Awardees are expected to contribute major effort to their funded project in exchange for support of up to 33% of their annual salary (i.e. 3 months per year on a 9-month basis) for up to three years, with additional research or

travel funds available as necessary up to a total of 20% of the requested salary support. Funded Fellows will likely be asked to review future proposals, participate in donor outreach events, and submit short, accessible summaries of their work for outreach needs.

Eligibility

In this Fall 2020 Climate and Life Fellows funding announcement, we invite proposals from all ranks of Lamont Research Professors. One Fellow will be selected from all grades, while the second Fellow will be selected from all grades up to, but excluding the rank of (Full) Lamont Research Professor. Post-docs and DEES faculty are not eligible.

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.

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 C&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.

LOI Guidelines

LOI should be submitted as a single, concatenated electronic file (PDF) to Jean Leote (leote@ldeo.columbia.edu) by Friday, October 23, 2020. The text should describe your proposed project in no more than 1 page (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:

- a) **Objectives and background:** What is the central idea or question addressed by the proposed research?
- b) **Proposed Research:** How will this three-year project answer the proposed question?
- c) **Anticipated Results:** How will this work produce useful or actionable information for society?
- d) **Justification for C&L support:** Briefly explain why this project merits support from Climate and Life. 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.

Full Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should be submitted as a single, concatenated electronic file (PDF) to Jean Leote (leote@ideo.columbia.edu) by invitation only, by Friday, December 4, 2020. Each proposal should include:

Cover Sheet with Abstract

Please use the "C&L.Cover.Sheet.doc" form that provides space for proposal details as well as a 150-200 word abstract, written for non-specialists. Abstracts may be reproduced on the C&L webpage and in reports to C&L donors, so they should be written for an educated layperson.

Proposal Text

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:

- a. 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?
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. Justification for C&L support: Briefly explain why this project merits support from Climate and Life. 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 "C&L.Budget.FY20.RFP.xlsx" form to work up 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.