

ISF Travel or Research Grants for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Researchers Spring 2024

Purdue's Institute for a Sustainable Future promotes collaborative research that advances understanding of persistent global sustainability challenges. This process includes training of the next generation of researchers in sustainability, which for our purposes align, broadly speaking, with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). To this end, in Spring 2024, ISF will award travel and small research project funding to defray costs for graduate student/post-doctoral researchers. Conference travel or research projects should take place (or have taken place) between January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

ISF will prioritize awards for multi-disciplinary collaborative projects engaging with topics of interest to ISF as represented by its [Research Communities](#) and [Special Initiatives](#). Request priority will also be given for large, well-recognized conferences and for research projects with potential to scale up substantially in terms of future funded research. Active participation in ISF by the mentor(s) and alignment with [ISF's mission](#) will also be considered. Students should also be applying to other grants and indicate this in the application. The plan is to offer this support for both spring and fall semesters in the future, subject to funding availability.

Additional Guidance:

- Up to a total of \$16,000 is available for grants in Spring 2024, with no more than \$800 per awardee.
- In order to distribute funds across programs, no more than \$1600 will be provided to any given lab or to an individual ISF faculty affiliate's mentees (in any combination of travel, research, graduate student, or post-doctoral awards). If multiple affiliates from one lab apply at once, the PI or ISF faculty affiliate mentor will be consulted as to how to award the funds. Once the maximum funds have been incurred, no additional grants will be funded to the lab, or an individual affiliate's mentees during this semester.
- A member of a relevant RC/SI, whose graduate students are not applying, will serve as a contact for application decisions if additional input is needed.
- Each recipient will have the money transferred to the research account of the faculty mentor for distribution by June 30, 2024.
- For graduate students unable to pay in advance for travel, they can use AAA Corporate Travel to book their travel. If they do this, they could directly charge the faculty member's account. Therefore, there would not be a need for the graduate student to pay out of pocket. Although Concur remains the University's preferred method to book travel, AAA Corporate Travel will provide faculty, staff and graduate students traveling on University business with comprehensive travel management and booking services.
 - Booking travel within 72 hours: 800-354-4514
 - Booking travel beyond 72 hours: Complete the Purdue University Travel Reservation Form.

Conditions:

- If the award is for travel, money must be used to defray costs related to travel to an academic conference for which the graduate student/post-doc has been accepted to present. Confirmation of presentation acceptance is required.
- Travel or research must be completed/requested before 6/30/2024.
- Preference given to projects supervised by faculty formally affiliated with ISF as of 1/1/2024.

- While students and labs are not excluded from funding in consecutive semesters, those who have not received funding in recent semesters and/or those whose projects more closely align with ISF strategic initiatives will be prioritized.
- Those who receive funding for research or to present are required to acknowledge support provided by ISF through use of ISF branded research posters or a statement of acknowledgement. Templates are available on our website, [linked here for easy reference](#).
- Awardees are also expected to present at a subsequent ISF annual research expo.

Applications will be evaluated on:

- Relevance of the topic to Institute projects,
- Importance of conference or project to the advancement of the applicant's career,
- Level of ISF involvement by applicant and mentoring ISF faculty affiliate, and
- Completeness of application.

Timeline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Most applicants will receive a decision on funding within four weeks of application submission.

ISF Travel/Research Award Application Submission process

Applications should be submitted via Qualtrics. The Spring 2024 [link can be located here](#) and is also available on our website. Please plan to provide the following information with your application:

Applicant's name

Email

Name of mentor(s)

Email of mentor(s)

Degree sought (PhD/MS) or Post-Doc

Department(s)

Title of research presentation/project

Conference title/date/location (if applicable)

Abstract of research (as submitted to conference) or abstract of project (in 750 words or less)

Brief description of how your project connects to sustainability, as broadly defined by the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), and the relevance of your project to [ISF](#).

Total estimated cost of travel for conference or proposed budget for project

Other sources funding pursued/secured

Amount requested (not to exceed \$800)

Confirmation of your ISF faculty mentor's approval- this could be an informal email from them noting support for your application/project.

If applicable and available at the time of submission, please also attach confirmation of your acceptance to present. If not available, this can be submitted at a later date.

If offered, presentation must acknowledge support of ISF, logo will be provided.