



2012 Bisgrove Scholar Program

Attracting innovative young investigators of exceptional merit to Arizona

Request for Proposals

SUBMISSION RECEIPT DEADLINE (Electronic):

By 3pm on March 1, 2012



2012 Bisgrove Scholar Program

Introduction

The future of Arizona and the nation is linked to the creativity and competitiveness of the next generation of academic researchers in science and engineering. They must be innovative and creative, bold and entrepreneurial, and capable of scholarship that will be recognized as world class. Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) will continue the Bisgrove Scholar Program for recruitment and mentoring of top tier post-doctoral and early career tenure-track scientists and engineers to Arizona. This Program aspires to become a gold standard, uniquely and nationally renowned in its ability to empower outstanding young scholars with progressive independence needed to make their mark and contribute to the greater good.

The current Program differs from its 2010 predecessor: SFAz will now select up to five Scholars state-wide from the candidates nominated by participating universities, during each of three annual competitions. The first cohort will start no later than fall of 2012, and subsequent cohorts no later than fall of 2013 and 2014.

Recruitment of the Bisgrove Scholars will be implemented by universities in Arizona wishing to participate, with the goal of attracting exceptional individuals who will have demonstrated substantial achievements in their field for their career level; and who have the potential to transform ideas into value for society and the interest to work at the *convergence of several disciplines or areas* identified as uniquely important and synergistic. Each institution will submit their top candidates, not to exceed five, along with justification for these nominations and proposed development plan, as detailed in this RFP. The SFAz Board will choose the first and each subsequent cohort of Scholars from these submissions, based on the quality of the candidates, of their planned research, and the effectiveness of the proposed mentor(s).

Objectives

The Bisgrove Scholar Program is intended to:

- Attract the highest quality post-doctoral¹ or early career tenure-track² scientists and engineers to Arizona institutions;
- Help fund a period of innovative research in strategic areas that enhances the Scholar's career and provides a foundation for ultimately attracting federal funding and/or industry support; and
- Provide the Scholar with a foundation that will help ensure her/his professional success.

¹Individuals holding a doctorate degree by the time of the appointment but with no prior post-doctoral experience

²Individuals with no prior tenure-track faculty appointment

Eligibility

Universities

SFAZ invites the Ph.D. granting universities in Arizona to apply for the awards. Only one proposal per institution nominating up to five Scholars in a given year is permitted. The university president or individual designated by the president will be the Principal Investigator.

The recipient university or universities receiving Bisgrove Scholars' funding will establish a plan for development of the Scholars in their respective applications. Eligible Scholar candidates will be individuals with no prior post-doctoral or tenure-track faculty experience but who will be holding a Ph.D. or professional equivalent³ by the time of appointment in areas of science and engineering that are of high priority to the universities.

For Bisgrove Post-Doctoral Scholars, the institution(s) should commit to best practices as outlined in the 2000 Report by the National Academy of Sciences⁴.

Mentorship and Career Development Requirements:

Main Research Mentor:

The faculty Research Mentor must be a tenured professor with a proven record of independent research in interdisciplinary areas and mentorship accomplishments.

This individual will need the resources to accommodate the Scholar's project in her/his laboratory (Post-Doctoral Scholars only) and the commitment to advise the Scholar.

The faculty Research Mentor should commit to co-writing at least one federal grant application with the Scholar during the second year of the award, assuming satisfactory progress.

Complementary Mentor(s):

The Scholar will be responsible for naming one or more additional faculty or administrative mentor(s) of her/his choosing as additional mentor(s), perhaps in the form of an advisory committee for Early Career Scholars. Preference will be given to individuals in complementary disciplines and to individuals who possess complementary skills or experience or who belong to an affinity group of interest to the Scholar. These mentors can be at the same or other AZ universities or from another AZ research performing entity.

Ethical, Legal and Social implications of Scientific Research

The university is expected to assure that Bisgrove Scholars are fully aware of the ethical, legal and social implications of scientific research within the existing framework mandated by federal funding agencies. An outline of how this training will be provided should be included.

³ MD, DVM, or other professional degree

⁴ 'Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers: A Guide for Postdoctoral Scholars, Advisers, Institutions, Funding Organizations, and Disciplinary Societies'; Chapter 8: 'Principles, Action Points, and Recommendations for Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience'. National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, 2000

Funding

The successful institution(s) will receive up to 5 SFAz awards for the 2012 cohort. Awards will be made with the understanding that: a maximum of two Early Career Scholars will be supported per cohort; all support will be contingent upon satisfactory performance on the part of the Scholar, mentors, and universities; universities may supplement any of the award components.

SFAz Contribution - \$100,000 a year per Scholar for two years

The total grant amount awarded by SFAz to universities for the purpose of supporting Scholars will be \$100,000 per year for two years for salary, benefits, and research support for the Post-Doctoral Scholars. For Early Career Scholars, the Bisgrove Scholar award is not to be used for salary or benefits but to augment the research and teaching start up package. The budget provided should make clear the specific distribution for each Scholar.

University Contribution

Awardee universities are asked to: Provide a salary and a competitive start-up package for Early Career Scholars; and provide appropriate employee benefits to all Bisgrove Scholars within applicable ABOR or university policy; they are also asked to be responsible for recruitment and overhead costs by executing a waiver of indirect costs on the award. SFAz recognizes that this constitutes a substantial contribution to the Program on the part of universities.

Proposal Content

1. **University Cover sheet** including all requested information, and signed by the authorized signatory for the university
2. **Institutional statement of justification** for their nomination(s) in the context of the entire applicant pool, **of purpose and commitment** to uniquely develop the Scholars during the Program including, for Post-Doctoral Scholars, a possible transition to a university position (**2 pages**)
3. **Up to 5 Scholars' applications (see appendix I)**
4. **Proposed research projects (1 page per nominated Scholar)**
5. **General mentoring plan and schedule**, including how to foster intellectual and financial independence for the Scholar after the two year period, as well as a performance review plan (**1.5 page**)
6. **Advertisement plan** which overtly recognizes SFAz, so the program may gain national and international exposure (**1 page**)
7. **Award Budget:** Please see appendix II or contact Program Officer (cbaskin@sfaz.org)
8. **For Early Career Scholars:** Nomination must include a summary of the formal university commitment letter, which should clarify the role of the Bisgrove Award in enhancing rather than replacing any part of this commitment.

Proposal Review

The selection of Bisgrove Scholars will be made by the SFAz Board of Directors, with a commitment to a fast turn-around time to maximize successful recruitment of the best candidates. In the event candidates selected by SFAz are no longer available, SFAz will attempt to select alternates from the entire pool of applicants from participating universities.

Proposals not in compliance with any details specified in this document, or the SFAz Terms & Conditions¹ will be ineligible for SFAz awards and may be returned without comment or review. The final granting decision rests with SFAz.

¹ SFAz *Terms and Conditions* for all Grants, Projects and Contracts can be found at:
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/hoth.bizango/assets/10132/CurrentSFAzTermsConditions.pdf>

Proposal Submission and Deadlines

Proposals will only be accepted with a fully completed original cover sheet that has been signed by the appropriate Institution signatory authority.

The complete application will include:

One (1) Electronic submission

- Send Application in PDF format to: storigian@sfaz.org
- Scanned cover page with required signatures either as separate pdf or with application (preferred)
- Title file according to university name

Deadline for receipt of electronic submission

3 pm on March 1, 2012

Questions regarding Science Foundation Arizona Bisgrove Scholar Program: Dr. Carole R. Baskin, Scientific Program Officer at cbaskin@sfaz.org

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APPENDIX I

Bisgrove Scholar Application Format to be used by Universities for Scholar recruitment

The following four items should be included in your application package.

1. The narrative should be single spaced, 12pt font and maximum length 8 pages and include:

- a. Describe your career interest, which, in the light of your background and past achievements, makes you an exceptional Bisgrove Scholar candidate. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)
- b. Explain your proposed plan of research/scholarship with a focus on multidisciplinary interests, why your interests would be a good match for our institution, and why a Bisgrove award would, in the long term, not only benefit you but also the state of Arizona; describe experiences, if any, you have had disseminating scientific knowledge to a variety of audiences and any interactions with the community at large. (Maximum length: 5 PAGES.)
- c. Discuss your expectations of the mentor-mentee relationship in view of your prior experiences/observations. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)
- d. The Bisgrove Scholars Program allows for selection of several mentors, including a primary research mentor, as well as a mentor in a complementary discipline and/or an individual belonging to an affinity group of interest to the Scholar. Please identify your preferred mentors and explain these choices in terms of the research plan described in above. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)

2. Curriculum Vitae

3. Official or unofficial transcripts from all college and universities attended

4. Three faculty recommendation letters

APPENDIX II

**Science Foundation Arizona
Bisgrove Program Budget**

SFAZ ONLY
Grant #:

Applicant Institution:

Project Title: Bisgrove Program

Grant Term: 2 Years (Please Provide a separate budget for each grant year)

Grant Year:

**PLEASE ONLY POPULATE THE SHADED CELL
(# OF SCHOLARS) THE REST WILL SELF-POPULATE**

Total Direct Costs \$0

Total Grant Amount: \$0

PERSONNEL	# of scholars (1 to 5 new Scholars allowed per year)	Base Salary	Benefits	Total Requested
Name				(Auto Totaling)
Bisgrove Scholars				\$0
RESEARCH ALLOWANCE	# of scholars (1 to 5 new Scholars allowed per year)	Cost Per Scholar		Total Requested
				(Auto Totaling)
				\$0
TOTAL DIRECT COST				\$0
TOTAL				\$0

Signature Sponsored Projects/Date

Signature Science Foundation Arizona/Date