

## **2024 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. Annually, the ATBC Seed Research Grant program funds research expenses for approximately 10 students, depending on the funds available each year. Read about the exciting research of previous Seed Grant recipients [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, etc.), but consumable supplies are allowed.

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants must be an ATBC member **at the time of application's deadline (i.e. 12 April 2024)**. If you are not already a member, you can join [here](#). Prices for student membership vary from USD \$15-\$45.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree program (Master's or Doctoral) at the time of application's deadline. 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.
- ATBC Seed Grant funding prioritizes research involving fieldwork. However, other types of research contributing to biodiversity and conservation will also be considered, including museum based research, or research involving agricultural or urban systems, provided the central focus of the work is on biodiversity and conservation.

### **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

- Explanation of expected outcomes and how the data will be analyzed to address the research questions and/or 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 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. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact letter-writers well before the deadline as the letter of support must be submitted by the application deadline.**

### **Submission instructions**

- The online application form should be completed in full; access the application [here](#).
- Document numbers 2-5 listed above in the Application Requirements, should be combined in **one single PDF file**.

The **letter of support** should be uploaded by the student's graduate advisor or collaborator in a separate form that will be sent after the student's application has been submitted.

The entire application including the letter of reference must be received before the deadline. Applicants are therefore encouraged to start their application, fill in the information concerning the name and email address of the letter-writer (please double-check that these are correct), and provisionally submit it by pressing the submit button, even if the application is not yet finished. This is because the application must be provisionally submitted in order for the letter writer to be emailed a link to upload their letter, which will then be merged with the appropriate application. Applicants can still modify their application up until the deadline date, even after they have pressed the submit button. So, it is a good idea for applicants to start and submit their application as soon as possible so that the letter-writer has time to upload the letter before the deadline.

### **Additional information**

Applicants will be notified by email once funding decisions are made. Awardees will be honored at the ATBC 2024 meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, to be held July 14-18, 2024. Recipients are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. Recipients are expected to obtain and responsible for obtaining all research permits required by the country where the research is conducted and 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 12, 2024 (5 am GMT)**

**Questions should be directed to: Imma Oliveras** ([imma.oliverasmenor@ird.fr](mailto:imma.oliverasmenor@ird.fr); Chair of the Grants and Awards Committee), with the subject "ATBC Seed Grant Question"