



Call for Young Investigator Research Grant

Program goals

The goals of the IHSS Young Investigator Research Grant Program are:

- to support fundamental research in the humic substances (HS)/natural organic matter (NOM) field, and
- to develop the next generation of engineers and scientists through support of advanced scientific education.

The IHSS Young Investigator Research Grant Program aims to promote the careers of young researchers by supporting research of high scientific caliber, and to enhance the career opportunities of their undergraduate/ graduate students, and/or postdoctoral associates through the research experience.

Young Investigator Grants

IHSS Young Investigator (YI) grants provides start-up funding for scientists and engineers who are post-doctoral researchers or in their first academic appointment at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent. The YI grants may be used to illustrate proof of principle or concept, to test a hypothesis, or to demonstrate feasibility of an approach.

The YI grant program is seeking investigator-initiated, original research across the spectrum of our mission. Excluded from consideration are proposals in which the ideas being presented are a mere extension of research from the principal investigator's (PI) graduate or postdoctoral experience. Research projects must be unique. Although a PI may send the same proposal to more than one agency, IHSS will not support a project having overlap, or partial overlap, with research funded by another agency.

Award information

Amount: up to \$ 40,000 total over 1 to 2 years

Estimated number of awards: up to 2 per competition

Nature and scope of the research

IHSS YI Grants are made to non-profit institutions for regularly appointed scientists whose research may be sponsored in accordance with the IHSS policies:



The recipient shall use all funds exclusively for advanced scientific education and fundamental research in the 'HS/NOM field,' which may include any field of science/engineering that in the judgment of the IHSS may afford a basis for subsequent research directly connected with the HS/NOM field.

Note that research may be fundamental research, applied research, or methods development.

The YI Grant Program is designed as a source of funds for young investigators who are developing their own independent research projects. The applicant must demonstrate to the IHSS YI Grant Program Committee that the project is an original research direction and is independent of their graduate studies.

All proposals will undergo a compliance check for the following required elements:

- completeness and correctness of the application,
- fundamental nature of the research topic,
- relevance to HS/NOM field, and
- extent to which the proposed research differs from prior graduate research.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be a post-doctoral researcher or in their first academic appointment at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent in a science or engineering department. In addition, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The PI must **be a current IHSS member** in good standing and have been a member **for at least 1 year prior** to the application due date.
- The PI must be employed by or under contract with a non-profit institution.
- The terms of appointment of the PI must promise reasonable continuity of service. The appointment should continue at least through the period of funding requested in the proposal.

Generally, the above criteria are automatically met by tenure-track assistant professors or equivalent. If the PI is not in a tenure-track faculty position, a brief statement describing the appointment and a Department Chair's letter affirming that the PI meets all of the above



criteria must be included with the application.

Funding criteria

The IHSS YI Grant Program Committee ranks proposals and makes recommendations for funding on the basis of the following criteria (in order of decreasing importance):

- Overall quality, significance, and scientific merit of the proposed research, including the extent to which it will increase basic knowledge and/or stimulate additional research.
- Extent to which advanced scientific education will be enhanced through the involvement of students in the research.
- Potential impact of the research funding, including the effect on the PI's overall research program.
- Qualifications or potential of the PI and adequacy of the facilities to conduct the research.

Budget guidelines

- The YI Grant Program Committee suggests that a significant fraction of the total proposal budget be devoted to support the education and training of students (undergraduates, graduate stipends and tuition remission, and/or postdoctoral fellows). If you have any questions about allowable budget allocations, please contact the IHSS **before** submitting a proposal. For proposals that are funded, the budget becomes part of the grant agreement. Revisions to the grant budget can only be made **with prior approval** of IHSS.
- **Amount:** Proposals may request up to a total of \$ 40,000 for a one to two-year period. The total budget may be divided among years according to the needs of the project. The normal YI budget year extends from September 1 to August 31.
- **Excluded charges:** No overhead costs may be charged, which includes secretarial and/or administrative salaries. Funds may not be used to support contractors, consultants, or visiting faculty.
- **Travel:** A maximum of \$ 2,000 per grant year, or \$ 4,000 total, may be used for travel related to the proposed research. This limit does NOT change as a result of time extensions. Support of student travel to scientific meetings is encouraged.
- **Research equipment:** Requests for research equipment on YI grant proposals are discouraged. However, a limited amount of research equipment funds (\leq \$ 8,000) may be



included in the proposed budget, with justification, and a discussion of institutional cost-matching (if provided).

- **Supplies:** Funds to pay for chemicals and other consumable items needed for the proposed research are permissible.

Limitations

Applicants may submit only one research proposal for consideration in each competition and may not hold more than one active IHSS grant at a time. Applicants may only apply up to 3 times and receive only 1 award in their career.

Application details

The application must be entirely in English and include the following:

- 1) cover sheet,
- 2) proposal (12 points font or larger, maximum of 4 pages, including all figures, tables, and references). The proposal must include the following sections:
 - a) abstract
 - b) introduction/background
 - c) objectives
 - d) materials and methods (including description of available facilities and equipment)
 - e) expected results and contributions
 - f) references
- 3) budget (use budget form),
- 4) budget justification (1 page maximum)
- 5) curriculum vitae including a list of relevant peer-reviewed publications (2 pages maximum)
- 6) title and abstract of Ph.D. Dissertation (2 pages maximum)

DEADLINE: To be considered for the competition, applications must be submitted as a single pdf file by April 30th 2017.

Applications should be sent to the President of the IHSS via email:

gudrun.abbt-braun@kit.edu