

RTI University Scholars Program

Phase I: Expression of Interest

Overview

Since 2014, the [RTI University Scholars Program](#) has provided support for distinguished academic researchers to spend scholarly leave time at RTI International to actively collaborate with our experts. The program’s goals are to foster collaboration, build scientific stature, and catalyze opportunities for future externally funded, joint projects.

This will be the second year in which the program will strengthen RTI’s commitment to centering equity in research. By situating equity at the forefront of our work, we seek to develop rigorous and inclusive studies and evidence-based solutions to address global systemic inequities and advance RTI’s mission.

The RTI University Scholars Program, administered by the [University Collaboration Office \(UCO\)](#), will prioritize applications for the 2022–2023 academic year from tenured or research-track faculty members at the Associate Professor level or higher with a commitment to collaboration and a research project related to racial and social equity—including climate, economic development, educational, energy, environmental, health, and justice—and policy.

The RTI University Scholars Program is open to faculty from Duke University and the University of North Carolina’s 16 university campuses. Applicants are encouraged to partner with RTI staff to co-create a collaborative research project.

Support

The RTI University Scholars Program covers half of each selected scholar’s salary and fringe, as well as other direct costs—including supplies, publications, and other costs.

Note that RTI does not cover Facilities and Administrative costs, and the RTI University Scholars Program does not cover graduate student stipends or tuition costs.



RTI University Scholars Drs. Shu Wen Ng and Will Vizuete (UNC-Chapel Hill) speaking with Dr. Tony Hickey (RTI)

Key Dates for the 2022–2023 Application Cycle

2021	
Wednesday November 17	Request for Proposals released
2022	
Wednesday January 26 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)	Deadline to submit Expression of Interest
Wednesday February 23	Notification to all applicants
Monday March 28 by 11:59 p.m. ET	Deadline for invited applicants to submit Full Proposals
Friday April 29	Notification to applicants who submitted Full Proposals

*The period of performance may begin as early as **September 2022**.*

Process

Interested applicants are encouraged to notify [Amy Vargas-Tonsi](#) in the UCO and their university's research office.

Applicants are encouraged to peruse [RTI's website](#) to familiarize themselves with researchers working in the same or similar space. Applicants who need help networking with RTI staff should contact Ms. Vargas-Tonsi with a brief abstract of their research interest and a biosketch. A list of former and current RTI University Scholars is available on the [program's website](#).

An Expression of Interest (EOI) should be developed in consultation and coordination with RTI collaborator(s).

Expression of Interest

EOIs must be digitally submitted using the [online form](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on **Wednesday, January 26**. The EOI does not have a budget requirement. To be fully considered, the EOI must contain the following elements:

1. **EOI Online Form**
 - a. **Applicant Information:** Name, university affiliation, email address, and faculty webpage
 - b. **Institutional Information:** Department name, department chair's name and email address, and any other departmental contacts
 - c. **Proposal Details:** Proposed project title, alignment to RTI's [practice area\(s\)](#) and/or [services and capabilities](#), proposed RTI collaborator name(s), and proposed start and end dates
 - d. **PDF Upload:** The PDF must include (1) the EOI, (2) a letter of support from the applicant's department chair, and (3) the applicant's curriculum vitae. Please see the next column for additional details about these three components.

2. **PDF Upload:** The PDF will be submitted as part of the online form and must include the following items:
 - a. **EOI:** This document about the proposed collaborative research project is limited to two pages and must include the following:
 - i. Purpose, objectives, activities, deliverables, and expected results of the proposed project
 - ii. Discussion of the proposed project's relevance to racial and social equity—broadly defined—and policy that leverages RTI's [practice area\(s\)](#) and/or [services and capabilities](#)
 - iii. Evidence that the applicant has current and/or prior relevant experience as a researcher and collaborator
 - iv. Reference to specific sources of external funding that will be targeted for future proposals
 - b. **Letter of Support from the Applicant's Department Chair**
 - c. **Curriculum Vitae (No Page Limit) of Applicant:** This document should reflect experience securing funding as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

Expression of Interest Evaluation

RTI business and research leaders will review and rank EOIs based on the following criteria:

- Impact of the proposed research program on the advancement of racial and social equity—broadly defined—and policy
- Academic qualifications as well as research and publication track record of the applicant
- Degree to which the proposed research project advances scientific stature
- Alignment to RTI's practice areas and/or services and capabilities
- Evidence that the proposed research could attract large-scale research support by government agencies, corporations, industrial consortia, or foundations
- Likelihood that the proposed research project will be successful

Invited Full Proposals

Applicants will be notified by **Wednesday, February 23**, about whether they will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

More Information

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RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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