



Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

What are the eligibility criteria?

- Must be an APS member to apply. United States-based and international applicants from any career stage are welcome to be a Principal Investigator (PI), with a maximum of four (optional) Co-PIs. APS staff cannot be PIs but can be co-PIs.

Are initiatives based outside of the United States eligible? Does the host institution need to be based in the United States?

- Yes, initiatives based outside of the United States are eligible. The host institution does not need to be based in the United States.

Does the project have to take place in the United States?

- No, the project can include groups and/or institutions from anywhere in the world.

Does the PI need an affiliation with an institution?

- APS typically writes MOUs with colleges, universities, foundations, non-profits, national laboratories. Exceptions require approval from APS Finance.

Does the Innovation Fund (IF) award grants for physics research?

- No, we recommend seeking funding from other agencies or supporters.

Application

What is the format of the pre-proposal application?

- You can view the pre-proposal application template [here](#). Click [here](#) to start your pre-proposal application. The pre-proposal is ~2 pages, and the full proposal is ~8 pages. All applications must be submitted via the online application.

What is the expected seniority of the PI and co-PIs?

- We encourage APS members from any career stage to apply. Postdocs and students are eligible to lead the project as Principal Investigators. We recommend that the project leadership team is composed of individuals that collectively have the necessary knowledge and experience to achieve the goals and outcomes of the project.

Are there any tips to write a competitive pre-proposal?

- We recommend that you read the [selection criteria](#) carefully, including [What makes a strong proposal?](#)

Can one PI submit multiple pre-proposals?

- Yes.

What type of budget information and confirmed resource commitments are required for the proposal?

- We need a general idea of how much your project will cost at the pre-proposal stage. The full proposal will require a detailed budget. If applicable, letters of support from partners are strongly recommended at that time.

Can proposals include stipend funding for people doing the proposed work?

- Yes.

Past Innovation Fund Awards

Where can I find abstracts of funded projects? What projects have been funded in the past?

- Please see the “Award Recipients” sections of the [IF website](#) to see details about the awarded projects.

How many proposals are funded each year?

- In the past, APS has typically awarded 2-4 proposals per grant cycle.

Other

For non-funded projects, is there an APS mechanism to facilitate partnering with other projects?

- Not at this time.

Do you fund extensions or continuations of an existing project?

- The IF is intended to pilot new and innovative activities, and proposals for continuing an existing activity are not eligible for funding. If a proposed project is born from an existing project, the new project should be able to stand on its own, apart from the existing activity.

Is there anyone I can speak to about my idea before I submit a pre-proposal?

- Yes. Email us at if@aps.org.

*This document is intended to provide brief answers to the most common questions we receive.
If you have other questions please contact us at if@aps.org.*

We look forward to seeing your exciting ideas!