

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DUE JANUARY 31, 2024

- THE CALL:** We invite all UL Lafayette graduate students to submit research proposals related to the sustainable development themes of environmental protection, social inclusion and economic growth and to any of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (see page 3-4).
- THE AWARDS:** We expect to provide 15-25 awards worth \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.
- Each award will be for a project, not necessarily an individual. That is, if multiple graduate students collaborate on a single project, they will share the award.
 - The amounts above are **pre-tax amounts**. Thus, the award amount you receive may be less but there are no other significant constraints or restrictions.
- THE PURPOSE:**
- To showcase UL Lafayette graduate student research.
To make sustainable development a priority in Louisiana.
To demonstrate the interconnectedness of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection—in Louisiana and in general.
To provide seed-money for innovative projects and to reward completed projects.
To create a portfolio of research to showcase in the Graduate Student Sustainable Development Research Summit on April 12, 2024.
- THE CRITERIA:** All UL Lafayette graduate students—whether you are in your first year or your final year, whether you are a full-time on-campus student or a part-time online student—are eligible to submit a proposal.
- The selection committee will consider all factors in reviewing the proposals—including the quality of the research, the impact of the work and the Sustainable Development Goals and themes addressed.
 - We will also consider other factors—including your college, your department, when you are expected to graduate—to create the best possible portfolio of graduate student research to represent the UL Lafayette sustainable development mission.
 - Work that is complete or near complete is eligible for consideration.
 - Projects in collaboration with faculty members are eligible, so long as the graduate student is a significant contributor and owner of the research project. The intent is to highlight graduate student research and thus we will not provide awards to faculty members in this round of competition.
 - Each graduate student may only submit one proposal. However, you may submit a proposal of your own and be a co-researcher on a proposal submitted by another graduate student.
 - We encourage submissions of all types of research from all disciplines and in all types of media: videos, podcasts, art, music, essay, however your work is best shared.

THE PROJECT: This Call for Proposals is the 2nd of (at least) 4 rounds of Sustainable Development awards for UL Lafayette faculty, staff, and graduate students. Over time, we plan to aggregate your work into a book, conference, website or other medium to further enhance the impact.

More information on the 1st round and the entire Sustainable Development Project can be found here: <https://business.louisiana.edu/SDGresearch>

We expect to announce the 3rd round of competition in Spring 2024, which will be open to all graduate students, faculty, staff and UL Lafayette community members.

REQUIREMENTS: Submit your project proposal by 11:59pm on January 31, 2024.

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- All awarded projects will be presented at the Sustainable Development Research Summit on Friday, April 12, 2024 or through some other presentation event.

THE TIMELINE: December 1, 2023 – Call for Proposals announced
January 31, 2024 – Proposal applications due
March 1, 2024 – Awards announced (with the cash awarded as soon as possible)
March 8, 2024 – Faculty Sustainable Development Research Summit
April 12, 2024 – Graduate Student Sustainable Development Research Summit

We will host optional informational workshops prior to the application due date to help you better understand the project and purpose and to answer any questions you may have.

After the award recipients are announced on March 1, 2024, we will host additional workshops to help you prepare your project for presentation in April. Workshop attendance will be required for all award recipients, but these sessions will be relaxed and informal.

Proposals can be submitted via this webform: <https://forms.office.com/r/BavMme9YVg>

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The United Nations and other supra-national organizations have been working for years to prioritize Sustainable Development. The United Nations describes Sustainable Development as:

...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and are all crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.¹

The UN's focus on Sustainable Development can be directly applied through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing communities, nations, regions and businesses a road-map to working towards a more sustainable society. These SDGs were developed based on years of scholarly research, public-private partnerships and the vision to see the role that we all have on creating the future world we will all inhabit.²

Residents of Louisiana – and faculty at UL Lafayette – know as well as anyone how inextricably linked economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are to one another. We know that the future economic and social wellbeing of the state depends on having a strategy that respects how interconnected economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are. Economic growth will happen *because of* social inclusion and environmental protection, not in spite of it. We could say the same about any other U.S. state or any other region of the world. But Louisiana is our home.

The goal of this project is to explore how the 17 SDGs impact the wellbeing of Louisiana, the USA and the world – both positively and negatively. By looking at the SDGs from a Louisiana and Southern US perspective, we hope to connect our daily lives with our future world. The changes that we wish to see in the world will be made locally – in our families and in our communities. If we are unable to make progress towards the SDGs in our own lives, then we have no chance of making progress towards the SDGs globally. The converse is true, of course: making progress towards the SDGs in our own lives and communities *is the only* way we will make progress towards the SDGs globally.

Your research will drive the changes we in the future and the progress we collectively make towards the SDGs in Louisiana. This project will showcase your research so we can all begin having critical conversations about how we create the future we all want Louisiana to have.

¹ “The Sustainable Development Agenda: Frequent Asked Questions; What is Sustainable Development”: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

² It is not a coincidence that The University's stated value of “sustainability” perfectly aligns with the United Nations' definition of “sustainable development.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

