

GUIDELINES  
University of Florida Water Institute  
FACULTY FELLOW PROGRAM

May 2026

The University of Florida Water Institute Faculty Fellow program recognizes University of Florida (UF) faculty for outstanding research, extension, and education programs that significantly advance UF's interdisciplinary water-related programs. Faculty at the assistant professor rank, including equivalent non-tenure-track faculty, are eligible for the **Early Career Water Institute Faculty Fellowship**. Faculty at the associate or full professor rank, including equivalent non-tenure-track faculty, are eligible for the **Distinguished Water Institute Faculty Fellowship**.

### Terms

- A call for nominations is issued each spring semester, with Fellowships beginning at the start of the following fall semester.
- A maximum of two Faculty Fellowships are awarded each year.
- Fellowships are for three academic years.
- Fellows receive a \$5,000 annual salary supplement during their Fellowship period.
- Assistant, associate and full tenure-track professors, county and regional Extension faculty, and equivalent non-tenure-track faculty, are eligible.
- Department Chairs and Deans are not eligible.
- Early Career Fellows may be re-nominated for the Distinguished Fellowship two years after completing their term

### Criteria

Candidates must be affiliated faculty of the Water Institute. Nomination packets should include a) evidence of an innovative, impactful, **interdisciplinary** water-related research, education and/or extension program, with an emphasis on the past three years; b) research, education and extension priorities aligned with the mission of the WI<sup>1</sup>; c) Commitment to provide leadership for water-related, cross-campus research, extension, teaching, and/or outreach initiatives during the three-year term as a Water Institute Faculty Fellow, advancing the mission and interdisciplinary goals of the Water Institute.

### Nominations

Candidates may be nominated by a Water Institute Affiliate Faculty member or may self-nominate. The following documents must be submitted to the Water Institute at [water-institute@ufl.edu](mailto:water-institute@ufl.edu) by June 12, 2026.

- Letter from candidate documenting their innovative, impactful interdisciplinary water-related research, education, and extension programs.
- A short description (2 pages max) of the interdisciplinary water research, extension, teaching, and/or outreach initiatives the candidate proposes to lead through the Water Institute during the three-year Faculty Fellow term. The description must explicitly articulate how these initiatives

<sup>1</sup> Water Institute programs focus on terrestrial water systems (i.e. freshwater, groundwater) and their interactions with human, coastal and atmospheric systems.

align with the Water Institute's mission and. Examples of such initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating cross-campus curriculum development
- Developing an interdisciplinary water related course
- Leading a working group to develop publications such as white papers and EDIS publications
- Leading an interdisciplinary proposal
- Co-hosting a conference, workshop, or meeting
- A letter of support from a Water Institute Affiliate Faculty member and/or the candidate's Department Chair documenting the candidate's standing in their field.
- The candidate's curriculum vitae.

### **Selection Process**

An ad hoc committee composed of past Faculty Fellows and Water Institute staff will review nominations and make a recommendation to the Water Institute Director, who will make the final decision. Individuals nominated for a Fellowship will not serve on the ad hoc committee.

Nominations will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Excellence in interdisciplinary, water-related research, education, and extension programs (40%)
- Quality and potential impact of the proposed cross-campus research, extension, teaching, and/or outreach initiative(s) the candidate proposes to lead during the Fellowship term (40%)
- Evidence of current cross-campus engagement (20%), which may include interdisciplinary activities that are not directly affiliated with Water Institute initiatives

Following selection, the Water Institute will work collaboratively with the selected Faculty Fellow(s) to refine the proposed cross-campus initiative(s), as needed, to ensure alignment with Water Institute priorities, timelines, and available resources. This refinement process may include adjustments to scope, activities, or implementation approaches and identify ways the water institute staff can support execution of the proposed initiative.

### **Faculty Fellow Expectations**

- Lead the cross-campus research, extension, teaching, and/or outreach initiative(s) proposed in their nomination packet, contributing directly to the mission and [strategic priorities](#) of the Water Institute during the three-year Fellowship term.
- Provide information on research, education, and extension programs and products they lead for inclusion in the Water Institute website and other Water Institute communications.
- Deliver a UF-wide Water Institute seminar.
- Serve on the UF Water Institute Symposium Planning Committee.
- Attend and promote Water Institute led and sponsored events.
- Promote the Water Institute across campus and externally.
- Serve on ad hoc review committees for Water Institute Award Programs.

### **Benefits to Faculty**

- Professional recognition and salary bonus for interdisciplinary water-related research, education and extension programs.
- Access to Water Institute resources to support implementation of the Faculty Fellow's proposed cross campus initiative(s), which may include funding support, logistical and coordination assistance, communications support, and access to data science expertise, as available.
- Increased networking opportunities and visibility.

### **Benefits to the Water Institute**

- Expansion of the active Water Institute faculty network, with increased visibility and impact of the Institute through Faculty Fellow-led interdisciplinary, cross-campus water-related activities.
- Faculty Fellows collectively provide a community of science on the UF campus that can mobilize to develop and implement interdisciplinary research, education, extension, and outreach initiatives aligned with Water Institute priorities.
- An expanded and strategically aligned portfolio of interdisciplinary projects and initiatives that advance the mission of the Water Institute.