

Junior Faculty Award on the Flora of New England

New England Botanical Society

Applicant Instructions



Established by the New England Botanical Society in 2019, the Junior Faculty Award supports the developing research programs of early career academic faculty with work focused on botanical, ecological, biogeographical, genetic, or systematic aspects of the New England flora. Candidates must be in tenure-track positions at a college or university in New England, be teaching botanically related courses, and be establishing or expanding a research program. For the purposes of this award, “botanical” study systems can include vascular plants, non-vascular plants, algae, fungi, and lichens.

The objective of NEBS in offering the Junior Faculty Award is to support new members of the academic community in New England and to encourage innovative botanical research on the flora of the region. The award grants are intended to support research, including botanical surveys and studies, ecological experiments in field or greenhouse settings, molecular and phylogenetic lab work, applied and conservation-oriented research, and herbarium-based studies, or similar projects. This research may be newly proposed or in the early stages of implementation.

Project Requirements: The research must advance our knowledge of plants that occur in the New England flora. Studies with research taking place primarily at New England study sites and/or using plant material from New England populations or herbaria will be favored. Projects that include opportunities for mentoring of undergraduate or graduate students will also be viewed favorably. Notably, while the project proposed might represent the first stage of longer-term efforts in a study system, the proposed work should result in a complete project, experiment, or study within one year of the award.

Types of Expenses Eligible for Support: Costs associated with conducting field, lab, greenhouse, and/or herbarium-based research are eligible for funding. Travel and lodging expenses associated with the research are also eligible, as are supplies and equipment associated with the proposed work. Modest stipends to support student involvement in projects will also be considered.

Eligibility: The Junior Faculty Award is open to early career, tenure-track faculty members (typically “assistant professor”) who have not yet submitted their applications for tenure at the college or university where they are based in the New England region. Applicants should have completed graduate training (typically Ph.D.) in a plant-related field of biology and have a record of academic achievement (e.g., peer-reviewed publication).

Amount of Award: The total funding available is **\$5,000**. Individual proposals may include requests up to this amount. Proposals should include a full budget and, if total costs exceed \$5,000, indicate other sources of funding available to or being sought by the researcher to ensure project launch and feasibility in the coming year.

How to Apply: Please submit a proposal describing the research to be conducted, which includes:

1. Title page with proposal title, applicant's name, address, phone, e-mail address, and expected date of tenure application
2. Body of the proposal of no more than three pages text (For a proposal to be successful, the topic and research questions must be clearly described, the methods justified, and the results achievable within defined time limits.)
3. List of literature citations relevant to the project
4. Itemized budget, including brief justification for each item
5. Timeline for completion of the proposed work (typically 1 year, although research hinging on growing season access to study sites or focal species will be considered for ~1.5 year timeline over two summers)
6. Deliverables including plans for disseminating results more broadly
7. Curriculum vitae

The application period opens on December 1 and closes on February 1. Applicants will be notified as to the success of their proposals by March 1.

Upon accepting the award, recipients are required to submit an abstract describing the planned research in MS Word format for posting on the NEBS website. A final report, including an updated abstract, is required at the completion of the project on the date specified in the award letter.

Please submit your complete proposal via email to the Junior Faculty Award committee at: JuniorFacultyAward@rhodora.org. The complete application should be sent as an email attachment, preferably in PDF format.

If you have questions regarding eligibility, budget, and scope, please email JuniorFacultyAward@rhodora.org.