



## VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY RESEARCH **Request for New Applications 2023-24**

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2023

<http://industry.oregonwine.org>

**Please read these instructions carefully. If your submission is not in compliance as required herein, it will not be accepted.**

Applications must be submitted online by January 31, 2023, to the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website: <https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit>. Submission site opens for the Oregon Wine Board (OWB) request for applications (RFA) December 1, 2022. Additionally, one electronic copy of the application with appropriate verified institutional signatures must be received by the OWB by February 28, 2023, or the project will not be considered for funding.

### **About the Oregon Wine Board**

The Oregon Wine Board (OWB, <https://industry.oregonwine.org>) is a semi-independent state agency charged with supporting enological and viticulture research for the enhancement and promotion of grape growing and winemaking in Oregon. Funds to support this work come from mandatory taxes on grapes used to produce Oregon wine (\$25/ton) and on certain wines sold in Oregon (\$0.02/gallon). The OWB appoints an industry-wide Research Committee, which reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Board.

### **About the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website**

The Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website (UVE, <https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit>) was established in 2005 to coordinate grant application submission and review among multiple funding agencies in the wine and grape community. Principal investigators (PIs) are required to use the UVE website when applying for grants to OWB.

Each of the funding agencies using the UVE has its own RFA, which presents its funding priorities. Researchers are strongly advised to read the RFAs from each of these agencies carefully and to apply to as many agencies as are appropriate for their project.

### **Eligible projects**

The OWB seeks applications for research projects specifically relevant to Oregon viticulture and/or enology. The OWB's research priorities are outlined below.

Multidisciplinary, multi-investigator projects are strongly encouraged, and projects combining viticulture and enology will receive a higher priority. Intellectually-related viticulture and enology projects may be submitted separately with distinct budgets and a clear explanation of their interdependencies and linkages.

### **Areas of inquiry for 2023-24**

Pursuant to a strategic planning analysis by the Oregon Wine Board in 2018, the OWB has articulated the areas of research in which it wishes to invest. Those areas are aimed at continuous improvement of Oregon's capacity to produce world-class wines.

While investigators from outside Oregon are enthusiastically invited to submit grant applications, their



results and conclusions must address, as must applications from Oregon research institutions, one or more of the following strategic pillars:

1. **Wine Quality:** Advancements in wine quality and site specificity and expression by enhancing markers both in the vineyard and winery, including improving vineyard health and organoleptic profiles.
2. **Sustainable Production:** Develop and improve sustainable practices to minimize inputs and reduce impact, and identify better alternatives to attain desired quality and economic results.
3. **Changing Climate:** Facilitate adaptation of vineyard and winemaking to future climatic conditions. Specific areas of interest include smoke impact, water usage, increased heat, and disease and pest management.
4. **Foundational research:** Foster viticulture and enology discovery that has the potential to provide foundations for future application that address the issues in the pillars listed above, i.e.: basic research that fuels future applied research pertaining to wine quality, sustainable production, or climate-adaptive practices.

## Viticulture

Specific areas of interest include but are not limited to:

1. Developing or improving methods and technology for detection, monitoring, identification, and sustainable management of:
  - A. Vineyard pests – prioritizing virus vectoring insects such as mealybugs, nematodes, and others; mites; and weeds.
  - B. Vine diseases – prioritizing viral diseases; trunk diseases; and powdery mildew, botrytis, and other fungal diseases.
  - C. Pathogenic vine conditions, including abiotic stress conditions, and the extent to which abiotic stress conditions stimulate the emergence of vine diseases and decrease fruit quality.
2. Developing or improving environmentally and economically sustainable methods of viticulture and their effects on grape composition, ripening, and vine health, and their amelioration of the effects of climate change through:
  - A. Identifying and improving irrigation monitoring and management practices, methodologies, and precision technologies.
  - B. Understanding the effects of vineyard management principles and practices associated with:
    - i. crop load, bud fruitfulness, and crop thinning;
    - ii. vineyard floor management, weed control, and soil water availability;
    - iii. training systems and canopy management;
    - iv. precision technologies and mechanization;
    - v. rootstocks and alternative wine grape varieties.
3. Discovering new basic knowledge in wine grape production in the following areas:
  - A. Discovering new biomarkers/precursors as metrics including effects of crop load on vine health and bud fruitfulness.
  - B. The extended vineyard microbiome as a critical component of terroir and its impact on wine characteristics.

## **Enology**

Specific areas of interest include but are not limited to:

1. Developing or improving fermentation (both primary and malolactic) management and wine storage techniques.
  - A. Mitigate issues associated with using compromised or nutritionally imbalanced fruit, including fruit from stressed and/or diseased vines; understand the relationship between vine nutrition and wine quality.
  - B. Optimize oxygen use and understand the relationship between oxygen use and specific wine attributes.
  - C. Optimize wine quality through a more thorough understanding of the causes of reduction and treatment for unwanted sulfide issues.
  - D. Develop a deeper understanding of the fungal and bacterial communities present during wine fermentation and aging, their effects on wine quality, and levers for the control of undesirable microbes in wine to minimize microbial defects. .
2. Studying the effects of winemaking techniques on extraction and retention of individual wine precursors and components during fermentation and aging, including aroma, flavor, phenolic, and non-volatile components, especially as they enhance wine quality and affect wine style.
3. Assessing the impact and mitigation of environmental character in wine that may arise from aromatic sources near vineyards, including smoke and industrial processing.

## **Review process**

All applications determined by OWB staff to be complete will be examined by the OWB Research Committee by April 2023. Shortly thereafter, the Research Committee will make funding recommendations to the Oregon Wine Board of Directors, which will vote on whether to appropriate funds as recommended. The formal announcement of funding will be made as soon thereafter as possible, no later than June 2023.

Evaluation criteria for research applications include:

- Scientific merit;
- The importance of the application with respect to the OWB priorities above;
- Budget appropriateness to meet the objectives;
- Adequate personnel and facilities to ensure the successful completion of the objectives;
- Application format instruction compliance, including length and completeness;
- Progress report for projects previously receiving funding from OWB. Special consideration will be given to projects seeking continuing funding;
- For inter-related, multidisciplinary projects, each project will be reviewed based on its individual merit as well as the projects' combined merit;
- Success of the PI in producing peer-reviewed publications (relevant peer-reviewed publications must be listed in the application) and/or that the PI has demonstrated successful outreach (relevant workshops, seminars, etc., must be listed in the application);
- Outreach plan: this is an essential component of the application. This plan must include, at minimum, the submission of one document (300-700 words) written for an industry audience within one month after the end of the funding period that summarizes the work and results of the project; if



and how results might be used in the vineyard and/or winery; and one presentation, either by the PI or his or her designee, done in person to an Oregon wine industry audience, or done remotely and made available electronically to an Oregon industry audience.

### **Funding and reporting**

The OWB will allocate an estimated \$350,000 for funding projects in 2023-2024. Allocation of funds to the selected research projects will be contingent upon final approval of the OWB budget. Appropriated research funds will not be available prior to receipt of the signed institutional agreement. Project commencement and completion dates must be submitted with the application (projects are expected to be 12 months in duration) and are subject to final approval by the OWB.

The OWB invites both new and continuing applications (see "Eligible Projects" above). Even if the OWB approved the first year of funding for a project, another application must be submitted for a subsequent year of funding. Consideration of continuing applications will be contingent upon receipt of progress reports from investigators funded the previous year(s) and the progress documented in the reports, as well as their continuing merit and promise of accomplishment. For consideration of continuing projects, the progress report must be submitted with the 2023-2024 application. New and continuing submitted applications cannot be returned. Confidential matters should not be included in applications. An applicant may submit multiple projects.

The OWB funds will be distributed in three installments: The first after receipt of the signed institutional agreement, up to three months prior to commencement of the project; the second upon a satisfactory interim progress report; and the third contingent upon a satisfactory final report. The final progress report may be included in an application for continuing support. The payment guidelines and requirements for reporting will be specified in the signed agreement for an awarded grant. Progress reports and the final report cannot be returned.

Publicity, press releases, publications, presentations, materials, and/or media advertising produced as part of this proposed project must acknowledge the OWB as follows: "This work was made possible in whole or part by a grant from the Oregon Wine Board."

### **Major budget restrictions**

Awarded funds cannot be used for:

1. The renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such spaces; or for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.
2. Indirect costs: such costs are not allowable, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Further, costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool, e.g. administrative or clerical salaries, may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.
3. Tuition or tuition reimbursement.

### **Application submission**

Required components of a complete application:

1. The application must be submitted electronically at <https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit> no later than January 31, 2023. (The submission site opens December 1, 2022.)
2. One signed copy of the application may be submitted electronically to the Oregon Wine Board



along with approval signatures as required from your institution (PDF format) to [research@oregonwine.org](mailto:research@oregonwine.org) by February 28, 2023. The second option is to send a hard copy with approval signatures as required from your institution to:

Oregon Wine Board  
c/o Research Grant Manager  
5331 S Macadam Ave, Suite 258  
PMB 121  
Portland, OR 97239

3. The application must include all required components, including a list of relevant peer-reviewed publications and/or the PI's outreach activities (relevant workshops, seminars, etc.) and plan, as well as noting any inter-related projects by other PI's working concurrent if applicable.

No exceptions will be made for late applications.

### **Notification of awards**

Applicants will be notified of funding appropriations by June 1, 2023.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding this RFA should be referred to the OWB via email at [research@oregonwine.org](mailto:research@oregonwine.org).

### **Timeline**

Oct. 31, 2022 – Final RFA published to Oregon Wine Board industry site

**Dec. 1, 2022 – UVE submission site opens**

**Jan. 31, 2023 – Applications due through UVE**

Feb. 27, 2023 – Application with verified institutional signature due to OWB

April 2023 – Research Committee evaluation of proposals

June 1, 2023 – Final date for award decisions to be communicated to applicants