



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1483

1. **Project Title** Florida Atlantic University - Max Planck Scientific Fellows Program (MPFSFP)

2. **Senate Sponsor** Gayle Harrell

3. **Date of Request** 11/27/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Through strategic partnerships, and in accord with FAU, the Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program presents training and professional development to postdoctoral, graduate, postbaccalaureate and undergraduate research fellows through: the International Max Planck Research School Graduate Program (IMPRS); Integrative Biology and Neuroscience Graduate Program (IBNS); Sunposium, grown to be recognized as a preeminent scientific conference on neural circuits in the Southeastern USA; MPFI's Neuroimaging and Scientific Short Courses, a unique series with hands-on training of cutting-edge imaging technologies; and other program pillars; collectively, all which expose MPFSFP fellows to Nobel Laureates and Distinguished Visiting Faculty. Each strategic pillar is carefully linked together so students gain unmatched knowledge and experience benefiting from a multitude of interactions, while participating in outstanding and successful career development programs for young neuroscientists.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,110,899
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,110,899

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,110,899	32%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	889,101	25%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,500,000	43%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	889,101	0	593A	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 1,000,000

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



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MPFI's general operating budget and grant revenue contribution provide additional revenue sources that complete the balance of funding for a comprehensive program to support costs of students and junior scientists that benefit from Max Planck Florida's outstanding research facilities and training opportunities. If not funded by the State, the number of exceptional students benefiting from the program and innovative MPFSFP offerings will have to be reduced.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	MPFI Head of Training and Government Affairs	15,750
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Administrative fee to FAU	22,218
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Program elements: Postdoctoral Fellows, Graduate Research Fellows, Postbaccalaureate Fellows, Undergraduate Fellows (including dual enrolled high-school students).	702,931
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	IMPRS - Int'l Max Planck Research School graduate program, Integrative Biology and Neuroscience graduate program, professional and career development programs, distinguished visiting faculty program, Sunposium (FL Int'l Neuroscience Conference), Neuroimaging Techniques and Scientific Short Courses, fellows travel, digital library, data science, virtual communications.	370,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0



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Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,110,899

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows program was launched in 2014. Through strategic partnerships and shared investments Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience (MPFI), in accord with Florida Atlantic University, has designed and implemented a unique program with the chief objective to train the next generation of the best and brightest researchers from Florida's academic institutions and beyond. It strongly contributes to strengthen the supply of a highly educated workforce and is pivotal for the nationwide recognition of Florida and the region as a uniquely outstanding and internationally competitive scientific and working environment. Through developing a highly successful career development program for young neuroscientists, the students are part of breakthrough advancements in investigating the brain, leading to groundbreaking discoveries & small start-up companies, with the ultimate goal to help cure some of the most devastating brain disorders of our time.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

MPFSFP is composed of several strategic pillars, which are carefully linked together to have students benefit from a multitude of interactions with their peers, and participate in career development opportunities, both at the local and international level. These pillars are: Postdoctoral Fellows Program; Graduate Research Fellows; Postbaccalaureate Fellows Program; Undergraduate Research Fellows; IMPRS – Int'l Max Planck Research School graduate program; IBNS – Integrative Biology & Neuroscience graduate program; Fellows Travel; MPFI Scientific Fellows Distinguished Visiting Faculty Program; MPFI Neuroimaging Techniques and Scientific Short Courses; Sunposium (Florida's most prestigious international neuroscience conference); MPFI Digital Library and Virtual Communication Tools; Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Training, MPFI Scientific Fellows Program Management.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Nearly 100% of the funding is directly or indirectly re-invested into the economy of Florida. MPFSFP strongly impacts the State by training highly qualified science graduates in neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and business development. Additionally, stimulus on the regional economy and service sectors grows as the program evolves. The exclusive international aspects of the program ensure that impact is reaching far beyond our institution and benefits the entire science community in the State of Florida. Already visible is the long-term impact on improving the scientific standing of the region and State, and the ranking of its universities. Florida Atlantic University has raised the standards for applications and successfully increased the overall number of high-quality applications. MPFI also reaches out and includes students from other Florida research universities to benefit from our professional development programs, conferences, courses, internships, and summits.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Postdoctoral researchers, graduate research PhD students, post-baccalaureate and undergraduate scholars (including dual enrolled high-school students), and research scientists. Through all program elements, including training, professional development, conferences, courses and summits, it is estimated well over 1,000 individuals will be served.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

MPFSFP tracks every pillar of the program marking highlights and accomplishments of each. The benefit and impact of the program is also evaluated in the success and achievements of the fellows, and will be measured through the future career trajectories of these young scientists. MPFSFP alumni from each training stage have successfully obtained competitive positions at top academic research universities and in industry research at the next stages of their scientific careers. Undergraduate scholars continue to remain in Florida, joining the postbaccalaureate, IMPRS PhD, IBNS, or other advanced training programs. MPFSFP Fellows have successfully published results in high-impact journals, in many cases as lead author, all strong indicators of program success. The number and quality of applicants to the program steadily increase, indicating its outstanding reputation and a growing interest in pursuing science careers in Florida.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?



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Funds will be returned if the terms of the agreement are not met.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization
b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number