

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://undergroundexplorersprogram.grantplatform.com> to apply.

UEP Application 2026

Project Title

Main Research Area

Underexplored ecoregions

Restoration

Global/Climate/Anthropogenic disturbance

New Species

IUCN Red List

Agriculture

Mycorrhizal Function

Please select one that best describes your topic

General Information

Nationality

The following two questions are related to diversity. We ask these questions as we at SPUN have a core value of supporting diversity in science. We also recognize that not everyone will be comfortable sharing this information. Therefore these questions are completely optional and will only be used for diversity purposes and will be kept confidential at all times.

Gender identity (optional)

Man

Woman

Non-binary

Other

Prefer not to say

Do you self-identify as belonging to a minority or marginalized group in science? (check all that apply) (optional)

Black or afrodescendent

Indigenous or Aboriginal Peoples, First Nations, or tribal communities

Rural communities

Other

Current position

PhD Student

Postdoc

Assistant Professor

Full Professor

Other

(PhD student, Postdoc, Assistant professor, Full Professor, other)

Institution

Project start date

Project end date

Are you a current or former UE grantee as a PI?

Yes

No

Have you applied to the Underground Explorers funding call in previous years?

Yes

No

Geographic Description

Country of study

Per US governmental regulations, funding cannot be used to support projects in: Belarus, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and Occupied Ukraine (Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia).

Description of geographic area and ecosystem type(s). Why are these areas important?
(minimum 30 words)

150 words

Please enter approximate decimal coordinates for up to three of your study sites in **decimal degrees format** (e.g., 40.7128, -74.0060).

Only the coordinates of one site is mandatory. You can add supplementary coordinates if you have already determined your additional study sites.

Latitude decimal

Enter your study site location in **decimal degrees format** (e.g., 40.7128, -74.0060).

1. Longitude decimal

Enter your study site location in **decimal degrees format** (e.g., 40.7128, -74.0060).

I have coordinates for multiple study sites (optional)

Describe the local or global impact of your research in terms of conservation, policy, management, and others
(minimum 50 words)

200 words

For example, impact on conservation, carbon sequestration, policy, etc. Be as specific as possible, focusing on your system of study

Project Description

Number of samples you expect to collect

Research hypothesis
(minimum 20 words)

80 words

Description of the molecular and sequencing aspects of the project
(minimum 25 words)

100 words

Please describe:

- rDNA region to be amplified (for example, ITS2)
- sequencing platform to be used (for example, Illumina)
- etc

Would you like to use SPUN's sequencing partners for metabarcoding sequencing?

If you do not know, you can click "Not sure yet". You can decide to use a SPUN sequencing partner at a later point if it is necessary.

Yes

No

Not sure yet

- Facility carries out PCR and sequencing for both ITS2 and SSU regions for identification of both EcM and AMF.
- Sequencing costs \$50 USD per sample.
- Shipping DNA extractions to the UK or USA is required.
- A maximum of 80 samples is permitted, with additional samples requiring prior approval.

Experimental Design (see SPUN's standardized protocols)

150 words

(minimum 40 words)

Please include here a detailed description of the treatments, replication, and other relevant information describing your experimental design.

Do not include molecular protocols in this section as you have done so in the previous question.

Timeline

	Month	Brief details of your project activities and justification	Other notes
1		Permit application	
2		Field work	
3		DNA Extraction	
4		Sequencing	
5		Results analysis	
6		Preparation of the final report	
7		Other	
8			
9			
10			

(Include at least: 1. Field Work Duration 2. Lab work / DNA extraction 3. Estimated sequencing Period)

Project risks

80 words

(minimum 20 words)

Names and institutional affiliation(s) of local research collaborators and how they would benefit from the data (minimum 20 words) 80 words

Does the team incorporate a local researcher? Briefly describe team members, including names and institutional affiliations.

Identification of local communities (including indigenous peoples and indigenous lands being sampled, if applicable) (minimum 20 words) 80 words

Anticipated outcomes (minimum 25 words) 100 words

e.g. publications, thesis chapters, conservation status evaluation

Description of community engagement and outreach (minimum 20 words) 80 words

e.g. how will this trip activate and reach a larger audience, including local talks/workshops, social media, video & images? How does the engagement involve local communities?

Budget and Qualifications

Total requested budget (in USD)

Please **download a copy** of this [budget template](#) (Top Menu > File > Make a copy), fill it in, and re-upload the completed budget template below.

Note: you must download your own copy of the UEP Budget Template - 2026. You will not be granted access to edit the original template.

Please upload your completed budget sheet here.



Maximum \$10,500, where \$500 must be exclusively allocated towards a camera or computer for the project.

Please upload your CV **as a PDF file format** showing qualifications of the PI.

