



OIP International Pre-Dissertation and Small Grants Competition

2008-2009

Objectives

The Office of International Programs is pleased to announce the continuation of its highly successful all-University International Pre-Dissertation and Small Grants Competition to support current University of Minnesota graduate and professional degree students pursuing a program of study with an interdisciplinary and international focus. Grants are intended to support short-term activities that enhance the scholarly project and/or professional preparation of the student. These grants will only support activities outside of the United States.

Description of Award

Pre-dissertation and small grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded. The number of grants awarded per cycle will vary depending upon availability of funds and the number of proposals received. Funds will be available for use immediately upon notification of award. Funds are intended to be used for scholarly or creative activities as described in the project proposal. Past recipients of these awards may not reapply.

Grants are intended to provide funding for preliminary field research trips to investigate research facilities and fieldwork conditions, check availability of archives and other sources of information, test project ideas and methodologies, make contact with scholars and informants, and determine skills needed for field research. Small grants can be used to adjust proposed dissertation topics, support international projects or short research trips, or fund supplementary travel support to complete dissertation research.

Eligibility

Current graduate and professional degree students from academic units throughout the University of Minnesota

system are eligible. Grant proposals should clearly demonstrate the interdisciplinary and international nature of the proposed project or activity. Students must give evidence of prior contact with relevant in-country institutions, scholars, or programs as appropriate for the project, or at least of correspondence initiating such contacts.

Individuals seeking full dissertation research support should direct proposals to the OIP Doctoral Fellowships for International Research program (see www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic/doctoral/). Proposals for internship activities should be directed to OIP's Walter H. Judd International Graduate & Professional Fellowships program (www.international.umn.edu/funding/judd/). While students may apply for OIP awards in more than one category, they may not accept more than one award during a single funding cycle.

Deadlines

Completed applications are due in the Office of International Programs by **noon on Friday, February 15, 2008**. Awards will be announced by April 15, 2008.

Selection Criteria

Pre-dissertation and small grants proposals will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary committee of faculty, on the basis of the following criteria: (1) strength of overall academic record; (2) cohesiveness and feasibility of the project proposal or research plan and the clarity with which it is conveyed to a non-specialist; (3) global, international, or transnational focus of the project or research plan; (4) interdisciplinary nature of the proposed project or research plan and the ways in which it contributes to the advancement of interdisciplinary scholarship; (5) strength of the letter of support; and (6) soundness of the budget request.

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Required Application Materials

The deadline for receipt of all application materials is **noon on Monday, February 15, 2008**. Completed grant proposals must include **8 collated copies** of each of the following:

1. An **application form** that must be completed online, printed out, and included in the application packet. The form is available at www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic/small_grants/.
2. A **budget proposal form** that must be completed and included in the application packet. The form is available at www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic/small_grants/. The full budget for the project should be included, even if it exceeds the maximum amount of funds that can be awarded.
3. A **project proposal** (not to exceed 500 words) that describes the applicant's research and scholarly interests. The proposal should include the following:
 - a. An outline of proposed activities clearly demonstrating the interdisciplinary and international nature of the activities
 - b. Evidence of IRB approval for proposed activities (if required)
 - c. Evidence of prior contact with relevant in-country institutions, scholars, or programs, or at least of correspondence initiating such contacts; applicants are also encouraged to provide evidence of research approval and/or support from the appropriate international institution(s) where appropriate.
4. Current **academic transcript** (may be unofficial)
5. **Curriculum vitae**
6. Any **research clearances or permissions** required by the foreign government (if applicable)

In addition, please ensure the following arrive in OIP by the deadline (Only one copy is required; OIP will copy the letter.):

- A one-page letter of support from the applicant's academic adviser

Note: Applicants should provide letter writers with a cover sheet (available at www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic/small_grants/).

Please send 8 collated sets of the application materials by noon on Friday, February 15, 2008, to:

OIP International Pre-Dissertation and Small Grants Program
Office of International Programs
645 Heller Hall
271 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Please direct questions to Karen Brown or Allen Isaacman at 612-624-0832 or kbt@umn.edu.

Approved Destinations

Travel Warning List. Travel to countries on the U.S. State Department travel warning list requires approval from the University of Minnesota Education Abroad Suspension Committee. The travel warning list includes countries the State Department recommends that Americans avoid due to crime, health, instability, or extreme weather conditions. Warnings are updated as the conditions warrant; some countries have warnings for prolonged periods, and others reflect more temporary conditions. Travel warning list: http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings_current.html

Since each student is responsible for building a case for travel to these countries, OIP urges early consultation before preparing the documents for consideration. The process for approval requires planning and a commitment to prepare a case. OIP can advise on the process and feasibility of the plan. Please contact Kathleen Sellew (612-626-8834) to discuss individual plans.

Travel to Cuba. The University of Minnesota has a license to authorize certain types of educational travel to Cuba. For initial information, please read OIP's website, then consult with Kathleen Sellew (612-626-8834) to discuss your individual plans. Cuba travel website: <http://www.international.umn.edu/travel/cuba/>

Grant Requirements

Grant recipients must submit a report consisting of a description of scholarly and/or creative activities, the impact of these activities on academic and professional goals, and a brief account of how the grant was spent, along with a list of other support received. The report should be 5-10 pages, double-spaced.

Reports should be submitted within two months of the completion of the dissertation research to:

Office of International Programs
645 Heller Hall
271 19th Avenue South
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