

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

2017-2018 ISCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Request for Applications

The Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) is accepting applications for its **Scholars Program**. The aim of this program is to provide faculty support for developing grant proposals in the social sciences and humanities. Proposed projects must address issues of social and individual transformation directly tied to one of ISCE's four thematic areas. **Applications are due March 15, 2017.**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

The ISCE Scholars Program will provide support for faculty seeking funds to support initial work in a new or existing program area. ISCE is interested in supporting both relatively new investigators and more experienced investigators whose research or scholarship addresses contemporary issues of social and individual transformation. **While proposals from individual faculty will be considered, priority will be given to interdisciplinary teams of faculty from across departments and colleges.** Minimum expectation is that Scholar Program proposal development activities will lead to the submission of an application to a government agency, foundation or corporate sponsor for a multi-year project requiring a minimum of \$100,000 in direct costs per year.

Proposals must address one of ISCE's thematic areas of research and scholarship (www.isce.vt.edu):

- **Global Issues:** policies related to international trade and economics, security, science and competitiveness, and health issues that face the United States at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;
- **Human Development and Health:** social and behavioral aspects of development across the lifespan; health issues facing individuals, families, communities, or societies; social influences on health; health policy.
- **Risk and Resilience:** individual or community level behaviors and responses to contemporary social issues, natural disasters, adversity, and change; technology and security; public policy.
- **Built Environments:** geographic locations, structures, and settings affecting the human condition; policy implementation and evaluation.

Team proposals aligned with one of the University's **Destination Areas** or **Strategic Growth Areas** (<http://provost.vt.edu/destination-areas.html>) are encouraged. Teams are also encouraged to include both graduate and undergraduate student assistants on the project as appropriate.

ISCE anticipates making six to eight awards of up to **\$30,000** per award. The award period is July 15, 2017 – June 15, 2018.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Proposals are welcome from faculty members in all departments, centers, and programs at Virginia Tech whose research/scholarship is grounded in the social sciences or humanities. The PI is expected to be a full-time, tenure-track/tenured faculty member. Preference will be given to applications in which at least one primary member of the team is from a college represented by the ISCE stakeholders (i.e., College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences [CLAHS], College of Science [COS], Pamplin College of Business [PCB], College of Architecture and Urban Studies [CAUS]) or ISCE supported/affiliated center (CAT, CCS, Cfg, CLiGS, CPHPR, MI, VTCAR).

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must include (a) signed cover sheet (available at www.isce.vt.edu), (b) 200 word abstract describing the research topic/project in language suitable for the general public and posting on the ISCE website, (c) project narrative of up to five pages, (d) itemized budget sheet (available at www.isce.vt.edu) and budget justification, and (e) appendix with information about potential funding agencies (see page 4).

Required information for the narrative portion of the proposal includes:

1. Overview and significance of the issue, problem, or situation.
2. Specific aims of the proposed investigation.
3. Timeline with list of key proposal development activities and project milestones.
4. Primary team members, including identification of the team leader and primary roles/expertise of all team members and consultants (do not submit curriculum vitae).

BUDGET

Examples of appropriate use of funds include, but are not limited to, course buy-out, faculty summer stipends, graduate assistantships and tuition, student wages, travel related to data collection, travel to funding agencies, and external consultation/technical assistance.

Specific funding guidelines:

- Summer stipends for the PI may not exceed \$8,000 and must align with the timeframe/tasks of the project. Co-I stipends should be compensatory with contribution to the team. Stipend amounts are inclusive of fringe benefits. The specific amount allocated for faculty support must follow University policy for summer compensation (see <http://www.policies.vt.edu/4296.pdf>). Please discuss summer salary caps for specific faculty with department fiscal staff prior to submission.
- Requests for buy-out support may not exceed \$7,500 and must align with the timeframe/tasks of the project. Faculty who receive a course buy-out during the academic year are not eligible for a summer stipend. No more than one course buy-out may be requested for single and small group proposals (1-3 investigators). Teams of 4 or more faculty may request one course buy-out for no more than two faculty members. **Course buy-out policies vary by college and must be approved by department heads/chairs and the college dean.**

Please note that requests for funding for activities typically supported by departments and colleges (e.g., travel to conferences, development/implementation of projects not requiring external funds, standard software) or to support long-term projects of individual faculty, graduate student research, or other on-going research and scholarly activities will not be considered.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Degree to which the goals, approach, milestones are clearly described and justified.

- Relevance to ISCE's thematic areas
- Collaboration among disciplines
- Extent proposed work is innovative and likely to impact science, practice, and/or policy.
- Potential for creating a new research direction or advancing work of established research teams
- Potential for external funding
- Reasonable link between requested funds (budget details) and proposed outcomes
- Probability of success

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Each individual/team selected to receive an award is required to:

1. Develop and submit a viable proposal to a government agency, private organization, corporation, or foundation, no later than December 31, 2018 (exceptions may be made based on due dates of individual agencies and foundations).
2. Submit the project cover page and abstract to the ISCE Director upon submission of the proposal to the external funding source.
3. Recognize ISCE support on any presentation or publication resulting from the Scholars award.
4. Submit a brief progress report, including a fiscal report documenting use of funds in July 2018 (specific due date/reminder will be sent).
5. Present project findings at a colloquium sponsored by ISCE in Fall 2018 (date TBD)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS/DEADLINE

Applications are to be prepared using 1-inch margins and Arial 11 font. Submit an e-copy of the complete application, signed coversheet, and itemized budget/budget justification to Ms. Katie Williams at ISCE (ISCE, 230 Grove Lane [0555]; kathw@vt.edu) by **5:00 p.m. March 15, 2017**. Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made within 48 hours.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD/AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Notification of awards will be made by April 5, 2017.

Projects are funded for one year, beginning July 15, 2017 and ending June 15, 2018. All funds must be expended by the end of the fiscal year (June 2018, see university guidelines for specific dates and deadlines).

Any unallocated funds as of June 1, 2018 are to be returned to ISCE.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM ISCE

ISCE staff is available to assist with project team management activities (e.g., arranging meetings; taking notes). In addition, ISCE's conference room is available for use by Scholar teams; it can host 12-16 people and is equipped with wireless internet, large screen and laptop connectors, Polycom audio and videoconference, and a whiteboard wall. Limited office space and conference facilities are also available at the Arlington Research Center.

Awardees also may request assistance with conceptualizing the project and the review of preliminary drafts of proposal for external funding as well as technical assistance with proposal preparation (e.g., proof reading, formatting, developing a budget, and uploading proposals through Cayuse).

QUESTIONS

Please contact:

Karen A. Roberto, Director
Institute for Society, Culture and Environment
ISCE RM 102 (MC 055)
540-231-7657
kroberto@vt.edu
www.isce.vt.edu

David Orden, Director
ISCE Global Issues Initiative (GII)
Virginia Tech Research Center
900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington VA 22203
571-858-3060; orden@vt.edu
www.qii.ncr.vt.edu

Appendix A: Potential Funding Sources

The ISCE Scholar awards are designed to support the development of proposals that have the potential for external funding. Proposals are more likely to foster success in securing external grants when faculty have fully explored funding opportunities and use that information to inform their proposal writing plans. Responses to the following questions are required as an appendix (1-page limit) to your submission.

- a. Does your proposed research align with the university's destination or strategic growth areas? If so, specify the area(s).
- b. Are you responding to a specific request for proposal, program announcement, or other special funding initiative? If yes, which one and what is its timeline?
- c. Have you spoken to an agency, organization, foundation, or corporate official (e.g. project officer, research director) to determine their interest in this project or project area and get feedback on your concept and approach? If yes, please describe the communication you have had with the possible funder(s), including their level of interest in your idea, and any input they may have had on the study you are proposing.
- d. Have you examined other current projects funded by the entity you are targeting for funding? If yes, how does your study compare with projects in similar domains that have been funded by your targeted agency? In particular, does the scope of your project appear similar to other funded projects (e.g., sample size, measurement strategies, project design, and analytic approach)?
- e. Have you gathered information about the criteria that will be used to evaluate your proposal and about the likely reviewers? If yes, briefly describe.