

Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE)

2009 SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Request for Applications

November 17, 2008

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) is accepting applications for its summer research and scholarship stimulus grant program addressing issues of social and individual transformation. The aim of this program is to provide faculty support for developing interdisciplinary proposals in the social sciences, arts, and humanities.

ISCE is particularly interested in supporting interdisciplinary teams comprised of (a) relatively new investigators and (b) more experienced investigators whose research or scholarship addresses issues of social and individual transformation directly tied to one of ISCE's five thematic areas. For more information about Virginia Tech's focus on social and individual transformation please refer to the Discovery Scholarship Section of the University's strategic plan: <http://www.president.vt.edu/strategicplan/discovery.php#social>

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Proposals are welcome from any and all departments and programs at Virginia Tech. The principal investigator, however, must be a tenure-track or tenured faculty member in a college represented by the ISCE stakeholders (i.e., Liberal Arts and Human Sciences [CLAHS], College of Science [COS], Pamplin College of Business [PCB], Architecture and Urban Studies [CAUS]).

FUNDING GUIDELINES

ISCE will make four to five awards in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to faculty whose proposal addresses one or more of ISCE's thematic areas:

- **Global Issues Initiative (GII)** (e.g., global trade and economic integration, global security, public policy, counter-terrorism, public health and science policy)
- **Human development and behavioral health** (e.g., life span issues, aging issues, children, adolescents, adulthood, family, community, child or adult health behavior)
- **Rhetoric, representation, and public humanities** (e.g., transformative effects of technology on society; new media and communication technologies; language and symbolic systems; human creativity & technology)
- **Social complexity and individual risk** (e.g., ethics; risk analysis; disaster management; ecosystem impact)
- **Community arts, built environments, and urban formations** (e.g., symbolic thinking and practical environments)

Examples of appropriate uses of funds include (but are not limited to) faculty summer stipends, wages for research assistants, travel to funding agencies, and statistical consultation. Please note that there will not be funding for the kinds of activities supported by departments and colleges (e.g., travel to conferences, seed money for individual projects, software) or to support ongoing projects of individual faculty or other on-going research and scholarly activities.

Request for summer stipends for the principal investigator may be up to \$10,000. Stipends for collaborating investigators should be commensurate with role in the development of the proposal and may not exceed \$8,000. Funds will be dispersed upon notification of award and must be expended by approximately June, 15, 2009 (see University's fiscal end-of-year deadlines for specific dates).

Notification of awards will be made by March, 2009.

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, 2009 (exceptions may be made based on due dates of individual agencies and foundations).
2. Attend a summer meeting hosted by the ISCE Director to discuss project implementation plans and share strategies for developing competitive grant proposals.
3. Submit a preliminary draft of the proposal to the University's Proposal Development Team for review and comment.
4. Submit the project cover page and abstract to the ISCE Director upon submission of the proposal to the external funding source.

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

Proposals will be reviewed by the Karen A. Roberto, ISCE Interim Director, David Orden, GII Director, and Timothy W. Luke, University Senior Fellow for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, who all serve as members of ISCE's Stakeholder's Committee. Priority will be given to proposal requests for:

- revising scored/previously submitted proposals that need further development
- projects that involve cross-department and/or cross-college connections
- developing proposals in areas that support current and planned cluster hires related to ISCE
- projects that include teams of investigators who range in seniority and experience

For descriptions of the 2007 and 2008 ISCE Summer Scholars' projects to go:

http://www.isce.vt.edu/summer_scholars.html

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS/DEADLINE

Applications are to be prepared using 1-inch margins and Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11 font. Submit 3 paper copies and one e-copy of the completed application (see attached guidelines/coversheet) to ISCE (237 Wallace Hall [0426]; kroberto@vt.edu) by 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 26, 2009.

If you have questions, please contact:

Karen A. Roberto, Interim Director
Institute for Society, Culture & Environment
237 Wallace Hall (0426); 540-231-7657; kroberto@vt.edu
www.isce.vt.edu

Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE)

2009 SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Proposals should not exceed 4 pages (excluding cover sheet and investigator information requested in #9 and the required appendix).

1. Title of Proposal

2. Abstract (200 word maximum)

Provide a succinct overview of the proposal. Assume that reviewers do not have technical knowledge in a specific field of inquiry. Avoid or explain technical jargon, discipline-specific terminology, or acronyms.

3. Brief Background, Rationale, and Methods for Proposed Project

Provide a brief summary of the background, rationale, and anticipated methods that will be used for the proposed project for which you will seek external funding.

4. Specific Aims and Objectives

List the specific aims and objectives of the proposal submitted to ISCE (not the proposal to be developed for external funding) and how the accomplishment of these objectives will inform and support the development of a proposal for external funding.

5. Relevance to ISCE

Describe how the proposal will contribute to advancing interdisciplinary research and scholarship on social and individual transformation in the social sciences, arts, and humanities, and ISCE's thematic areas.

6. External Funding Sources

Include a brief description of the funding entity and their research or scholarship interests. Include submission deadlines and funding (start) dates.

7. Personnel (*Do not submit curriculum vitae*)

Describe the role, expertise, and external grant success of the lead investigator, the collaborating investigator(s), and any other key personnel. Include description of any previous collaboration between/among project team members and any previous support (internal and external funds) received by any of the team members in support of or related to the proposed project.

8. Budget and Justification

Provide an itemized budget and narrative budget justification.

9. Contact Information

Identify the lead investigator, collaborating investigators, and the departments or units they represent. For all investigators and key personnel include: name, title, tenure/tenure track, department/center/group, college, office phone number, and e-mail address.

10. Appendix (2 pages maximum)

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 used that information to inform their proposal writing plans. Please include responses to the following question as an appendix to your submission.

- A. 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?
- B. 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.
- C. 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, analytic approach)?
- D. Have you gathered information about the criteria that will be used to evaluate your proposal and about the likely reviewers?
 - If yes, briefly describe.

Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE)

2009 SUMMER FACULTY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

COVER SHEET

Title of Proposal: _____

Area of Investigation: (check one)

- Global Issues Initiative
- Human Development and Behavioral Health
- Rhetoric, Representation, and Public Humanities
- Social Complexity and Individual Risk
- Community Arts, Built Environments, and Urban Formations

Signatures of PI and Collaborators:

If we receive an award, we understand that: (a) the award must be expended according to the University's fiscal end-of-year deadlines, (b) we are expected to attend a meeting of ISCE Summer Scholars, (c) we are to meet with the Proposal Development Team for review and comment on a preliminary draft of our proposal, and (d) we are to submit a grant proposal to an external entity by December 31, 2009.

Name (PI) Department Date

Name Department Date

Name Department Date

Name Department Date

Signatures of Department Head/Chair or Center Director:

I support the faculty member's application to ISCE and understand that the award will be transferred to the operating account of the home department/center and must be expended according to the University's fiscal end-of-year deadlines. The faculty member is expected to submit a grant proposal to an external funding entity by December 31, 2009.

Name Department Date

Name Department Date

Name Department Date

Name Department Date