INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

2017 ISCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Request for Applications

The Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) is accepting applications for its **Scholars Program** (formerly the ISCE Summer Scholars and Summer Scholars In-Residence Program) addressing issues of social and individual transformation directly tied to one of ISCE's four thematic areas. The aim of this program is to provide faculty support for developing grant proposals in the social sciences and humanities. **Applications are due Thursday, November 10, 2016.** Awards will be made in early December 2016; all funds received must be expended by mid-June 2017.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

The ISCE Scholars Program will provide support for **individual or faculty teams** 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. Minimum expectation is that 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:** international trade and economic, security, 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.
- **Risk and Resilience:** individual or community level behaviors and responses to contemporary social issues, natural disasters, adversity, and change.
- **Built Environments:** conditions, structures, or policies affecting the human condition.

Transdisciplinary team proposals aligned with one of the University's **Destination Areas** or **Strategic Growth Areas** are encouraged.

ISCE anticipates making five or six awards of up to **$30,000** per award.

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, spring semester 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; 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 specific summer salary caps for specific faculty with department fiscal staff prior to submission.
- Faculty who receive a course buy-out for spring semester 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. Requests for a buy-out support may not exceed $7,500.
- Funds for GRA tuition available for academic semester only.

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.

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, 2017 (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 2017 (specific due date/reminder will be sent).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS/DEADLINE

Applications are to be prepared using 1-inch margins and Arial 11 font. Submit an e-copy of the complete application and signed coversheet, and itemized budget to Ms. Katie Williams at ISCE (ISCE, 230 Grove Lane [0555]; kathw@vt.edu) by **5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 10, 2016.** Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made within 48 hours.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD/AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Notification of awards will be made by **early December, 2016**.

Funds will be available upon notification of award. Funds must be expended by the end of the current fiscal year (June 2017, see university guidelines for specific dates and deadlines).

Any unallocated funds as of June 1, 2017 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 connecters, Polycom audio and videoconference, and a whiteboard wall.

Awardees also may request assistance with conceptualizing the project and review of preliminary drafts of the proposal to be submitted 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:

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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 proposed destination 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.