

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

2018-2019 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 areas of interest in the social and behavioral sciences. Proposed projects must align with one of ISCE's four thematic areas. **Applications are due March 15, 2018.**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

The ISCE Scholars Program will provide support for faculty seeking funds to undertake 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 individual issues and societal concerns. **While proposals from individual faculty will be considered, priority will be given to interdisciplinary teams of faculty from across departments and colleges.** The expectation is that proposals developed through the Scholars Program will lead to the submission of an application to a government agency, foundation, or corporate sponsor for a 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, and science and competitiveness 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.
- **Community and 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, 2018 – June 15, 2019.

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 and behavioral sciences. 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, CRS, 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 role and 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-outs, 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 commensurate 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 course 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. **Prior to submitting a Scholars Program application, applicants should check with their department/college as course buy-out policies vary by college and in some areas proposals must be approved by both the department head/chair and 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

Proposals will be evaluated based upon:

- Degree to which the goals, approach, milestones are clearly described and justified.
- Relevance to ISCE's thematic areas.
- Collaboration across disciplines.
- Extent proposed work is innovative and likely to impact science, practice, and/or policy.
- Reasonable link between requested funds (budget details) and proposed outcomes.
- Potential for creating a new research direction or advancing work of established research teams.
- Potential for external funding.
- 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, 2019 (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 presentations or publications resulting from the Scholars award.
4. Submit a brief progress report, including a fiscal report documenting use of funds, in July 2019 (specific due date/reminder will be sent).
5. Present project findings at a colloquium sponsored by ISCE in Fall 2019 (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. Yancey Crawford (yanceyc3@vt.edu) by **5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 15, 2018**. Acknowledgement of receipt of an application will be made within 48 hours.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD/AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Notification of awards will be made by April 10, 2018.

Projects are funded for one-year, beginning July 15, 2018 and ending June 15, 2019. All funds must be expended by the end of the fiscal year (June 2019, see university guidelines for specific dates and deadlines).

Any unallocated funds as of June 1, 2019 are to be returned to ISCE.

QUESTIONS

Please contact:

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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 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.