

President's Global Innovation Fund

Spring 2013 Request for Proposals

The Columbia Global Centers are a global network of flexible regional hubs for a wide range of activities and resources intended to enhance the quality of research and learning at the University. They are built on the belief that establishing an interactive network of partnerships across geographic boundaries and collaborations across traditional academic disciplines can help address complex challenges by bringing together scholars, students, public officials, private sector leaders, and innovators from many fields.

The global centers promote and facilitate international collaborations, research projects, academic programming and study abroad. The global centers also serve as a local resource for the University's regional projects. Their presence on-the-ground provides agency: catalyzing interactions with local and regional academic communities, institutions, governments, and other partners. These interactions encourage academic reciprocity between local thinkers and the Columbia University scholarly community –espousing a global dialogue that transcends geographic, economic, cultural, or social barriers. By virtue of their interdisciplinary outreach, the network of centers encourages new relationships across schools, institutes, and academic departments at the University. Their decentralized nature allows for collaboration and programming across the network of eight centers -- enabling research projects and initiatives that are global in scope and address the central concerns and challenges of our globalizing societies. The centers also provide critical logistical support and hosting mechanisms, including the use of their own facilities or access to appropriate facilities in the center's city or other cities served by the center.

This program awards grants for faculty members to leverage and engage Columbia's global center network. The program is designed as a venture fund to enable the development of new projects and research collaborations within and across these sites, in order to increase global opportunities for research, teaching and service. Projects may be based in New York, but they must engage with at least one of Columbia's global centers (Amman, Jordan; Beijing, China; Istanbul, Turkey; Mumbai, India; Nairobi, Kenya; Paris, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Santiago, Chile). Projects abroad may be sited in Columbia Global Centers' cities or in other locations in the regions served by a global center.

What kinds of projects are candidates for funding?

Eligible project types could include:

- Support for research collaborations: pilot research projects; exchanges; linkages with local universities, NGOs, government agencies.
- Support for the development/implementation of educational or curricular initiatives at the graduate or undergraduate level (new courses and seminars or

fieldwork/travel components of campus-based courses; training or group workshop/internship programs, with local partners).

- Scholarly events (conferences, workshops, symposia) in collaboration with local scholars/scientists, institutions/organizations.

Special consideration will be given to those projects which:

- Forge interdisciplinary, or inter-school, faculty collaborations
- Provide opportunities to students to engage with faculty in research, education, or training
- Have the potential to grow into a sustainable program
- Require seed funding now, but have the potential to attract external support; Include matching funds or identify possible sources/strategies for securing them;
- Engage two or more global centers.

Successful project proposals will demonstrate the ways in which a global center will add value to the project, and, ideally, address the potential of the project to enhance the global center network.

Who is eligible to apply?

Schools, departments, institutes, centers, and faculty (singly or in groups) are all eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted by a faculty member¹ with the authority to serve as a principal investigator, who will assume primary scholarly, administrative, and financial, responsibility for the project.

How much funding is available?

All awards will be made on a competitive basis. Award amounts will be determined individually by project. However, typical project award limits will vary by type of proposal:

- Planning grants (~\$20-25,000), for a period of no longer than one-year, and non-renewable
- Project grants (~\$25-100,000/year), for a period of up to three years. Multi-year grants will be reviewed and renewed annually.

What is required to apply for funds?

To be considered in this first round competition, applications for funds must be received by May 1, 2013. We anticipate that for future rounds, proposals will be

¹ For this purpose, a full-time eligible faculty member includes those with full-time professorial titles, modified or unmodified; officers of research.

reviewed twice annually, on a schedule to be determined. In developing proposals and budgets, applicants should consult with the director(s) of the relevant global center(s) (see appended list) and/or Safwan Masri, Vice President for Global Centers.

A full application will include:

- A cover page
- A letter of support from the dean(s) of the applying school or chair(s) of the relevant department(s)
- Letter of commitment from the faculty member assuming primary scholarly, administrative, and financial responsibility for project. Letters from collaborating faculty, describing their commitments, also required
- Description of project, expected participants, and impact (max 5 pages)
- Detailed budget, by expense category (e.g., facility rental, travel, materials production, salary coverage)
- Description of any other funds received for this project
- Description of the nature of collaboration with the relevant global center(s), with letter confirming feasibility from the center director
- Other letters of support, as appropriate (e.g., external collaborators, other institutions or investigators)

How will proposals be reviewed?

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and administrators representing a range of disciplines and schools, who will make funding recommendations to the President, Provost, and Vice President for Global Centers.

The amount of each award, as well as the award duration, will be made on an individual basis.

What is required of grantees?

Faculty receiving awards will be expected to provide full reporting of funds spent. Unspent funds must be returned.

In addition, fund recipients consent to provide progress updates and have news of their work shared via external communications, such as the Columbia Global Centers website, or other press releases and publications, and to present their work at appropriate forums such as the Columbia Global Centers Annual Summit on campus.

Contacts

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