

Graduate International Research Competitive Grants

The Office of International Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences is excited to announce the first offering of a competitive grant program. This new program provides an opportunity for graduate students enrolled in the INTAD dual-title degree program to conduct research in an international setting.

Details about the program

1. Eligibility is limited to graduate students who are enrolled in the INTAD dual-title degree program. Masters and doctoral students are invited to apply.
2. Applications to conduct research in any country outside the US are welcome, though preference will be given to applicants seeking to conduct research in developing nations.
3. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.** Only applications that are received by the deadline will be considered. Applications will be reviewed by the INTAD Academic Program Committee and decisions will be announced in mid-March with funding available by March 30.
4. Awarded funds will must be expended by June 30, 2012. No extensions will be granted.
5. Grant funds cannot be used for travel to attend scientific meetings.
6. Students are eligible to receive a grant award once as a graduate student at PSU.

Application Package

Application packages should include the following items, in order and be emailed as one PDF file to Melanie Foster at mjm727@psu.edu.

1. **Cover page** including the title of proposal, application information (name, email address, phone number, PSU ID, major), signature of applicant and advisor.
2. **Abstract** is limited to 200 words. Use a separate sheet from body of proposal. This will be used for outreach purposes and should be written clearly so that it is understandable to a layperson. If selected for funding, this abstract will be uploaded to the CASE International Programs and INTAD websites.
3. **Proposal** is limited to two pages in a 12 point font. All graphs and images will be considered part of the two page proposal. Please number your proposal pages and use the following headings in your proposal:
 - a. **Project Rationale**

- b. **Background Information**
- c. **Description of Proposed Research**
- d. **Impact of Research**
4. **Budget:** expenditures can include, but are not limited to: field and/or lab supplies, survey tools/equipment, travel to/from research site and software for data analysis. Please keep in mind that all expenditures must occur within the award timeframe.
5. **Budget Justification:** Include as a separate page, a narrative paragraph(s) explaining briefly the rationale for each budget item requested.
6. **Citations:** Any literature/publications that are cited in your abstract and/or main body of proposal should be referenced.
7. **Curriculum Vita (CV):** Two page maximum.

Review Criteria

Proposals are reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of hypothesis or statement of problem
- Background information that frames the context of the proposal
- Ability of proposed procedures to address the proposed objectives of the project
- Potential impact of research on the international community, Penn State community, the INTAD dual-title degree program and the applicant.
- Clarity of expression – writing style and proposal organization

Questions

Any questions regarding the grant program or the application process should contact Melanie Foster, mjm727@psu.edu.