OVPR International Visitor Fellowship

Submission Deadline: 2-6 months prior to visit

Program Description

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) announces its International Visitor Fellowship program to increase collaborations in high-potential geographic regions where investments could significantly broaden the University’s international research collaborations. Submissions are accepted throughout the year for visits that are planned within two to six months of the submission subject to availability of funds.

OVPR identified three geographic areas that are the primary focus of this investment: (i) Sub-Saharan Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, and Nigeria; (ii) South-East Asia: Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Thailand; and (iii) South America: Argentina, Chile, and Peru. When visitors from other countries are proposed, the University of Minnesota host will need to justify why the visitor’s country meets the selection criteria (see below).

The program supports visits of international visitors (up to $2,500 per visitor for a maximum of $7,500 per application) from high-potential geographic regions who hold faculty or senior research positions at a university or research organization in their home country. The purpose of the research must be to collaborate with University of Minnesota researchers on a project. Additional funding for up to $500 will be provided to the hosting academic unit for a networking event and other allowable expenses for social events.

The international visitor(s) will be hosted by a University of Minnesota academic unit. The hosting academic unit is expected to offer a networking event where the visiting researcher(s) share their insights into conducting collaborative research in their home country. This networking event is broadly accessible across all campuses (utilizing video conferencing or other technology). In addition, the hosting academic unit is expected to arrange for individual consultations between the international visitor(s) and University of Minnesota researchers outside of the hosting academic unit for a minimum of five hours total during their visit.

Eligibility requirements

Applications are accepted from U of MN faculty (Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor) conducting independent research and who hold (or will hold during the 2016-2017 academic year) full time (100%) tenured or tenure-track appointments (Employee Class FAR). New faculty must begin their appointment by the start date of the award.

U of MN faculty (Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor) holding full-time (100%) salaried multiple year contract, annual renewable contract or fixed term contract appointments (Employee Class FAC, FTD, or ACP) and who are annually evaluated like tenured and tenure-track faculty (in terms of their research accomplishments, independence and ability to secure external funding), are also eligible for this award.
Consideration will not be given to:

- Proposals from individuals who were awarded an OVPR International Visitor Fellowship within the past three years.
- Proposals that have been reviewed twice previously, unless the proposer was specifically encouraged to resubmit the proposal following the most recent submission.
- Applications directed primarily toward curriculum or educational development, e.g., preparation of textbooks or course materials, or toward product development, market surveys, etc. These are more appropriately funded by the faculty member's department or college, or by industry, respectively.
- Projects which are evaluations of educational (e.g., classroom) experiments, industrial processes, etc. are generally not eligible for funding unless it is clear that the research is part of a broader hypothesis that is the basis of the scholarly work of the faculty member and that the evaluation is not an end in itself.
- Graduate student thesis research per se.
- Applicants who have more than $50,000 of uncommitted non-sponsored/internal funding.

Selection Criteria

- Geographic Area
  - Primary consideration will be given to visitors from a country within the three high-potential geographic areas mentioned above.
  - Secondary consideration will be given to additional countries listed on the United Nations list of least developed countries\(^1\). For countries on this list, the proposer must demonstrate that University researchers or scholars from more than one college are engaged in research or scholarship in this country.
- Potential for increasing prominence of international research at the University and fostering additional collaborations.
- Intrinsic scientific, scholarly, or artistic merit of the collaborative project as judged by its a) importance to the field; b) coherence and clarity of purpose; c) potential for success; and d) degree of imagination and innovation in concept and approach.
- Commitment and plan of the hosting academic unit to provide networking opportunities to researchers outside of their academic unit.

Application Requirements

- Cover page with
  - Title and non-technical abstract (150 word maximum)
  - Name and department of hosting faculty

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- Short bio of hosting faculty (300 word maximum); statement of meeting eligibility requirements; and start and end dates of proposed visit

- Description of proposed collaborative work during visit
  - Limit to one single-spaced page prepared in point size of 11 or higher with 1” margins. References are not included in this space limitation but should be kept to a minimum.
  - One additional page may be added for figures or images.

- Description of activities organized by the hosting department to share the visiting fellow’s expertise on conducting research in their home country
  - Limit to one single-spaced page prepared in point size of 11 or higher with 1” margins.

- Support letter from unit head of hosting unit detailing the commitment of resources provided to the visitor(s) (e.g., office space, library access, etc.) and commitment to host the networking event

- CV and one page letter of collaboration of visiting fellow(s)

- Budget and budget justification
  - The budget can only pay for the visitor’s expenses, such as travel, accommodations, and per diem, the networking event, and allowable cost for well-justified social events.

Applicants are encouraged to e-mail facgrant@umn.edu prior to submitting a proposal to check eligibility and availability of funds. Submit full proposal as a single pdf to facgrant@umn.edu.