

INTERNATIONALIZING SMALL LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Overview and Purpose

To internationalize U.S. campuses and curricula, the worldwide Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) Program brings scholars from abroad to lecture at U.S. colleges and universities.

How can Small Liberal Arts Colleges participate? U.S. institutions of higher education may submit proposals to the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (IIE/CIES) to request scholars for one or both semesters of the 2013-2014 academic year. Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence teach (primarily at the undergraduate level) in world area studies courses/programs, interdisciplinary courses/programs that focus on global issues, or courses where participation of a visiting scholar can provide a cross-cultural or international perspective. Fulbright S-I-Rs often assist with curriculum development efforts in these same areas.

Fulbright S-I-Rs also participate in a variety of campus and community activities aimed at strengthening the international programs and perspectives of your institution and community.

Proposals are welcome from all academic disciplines where an international perspective is beneficial.

Institutions may suggest suitable candidates or have IIE/CIES work with Fulbright commissions and U.S. embassies abroad to recruit scholars from a particular country or geographic region.

Eligibility

Proposals are welcome from any accredited institution of higher education or from a consortium of two or more such institutions. Preference is given to institutions that:

- infrequently or never host visiting scholars
- serve student populations underrepresented in international exchange programs
- and/or serve minority students

This grant program is particularly appropriate for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), small liberal arts colleges, and community colleges.

Financial Support

This grant includes: round-trip international air travel, a monthly stipend for your visiting scholar (ranging from \$2,500 to \$2,900), an allowance for up to two dependents and insurance for the scholar. Host institutions generally propose some cost-sharing, such as a salary supplement for the scholar and/or in-kind support such as housing, meals, local travel, etc.

Case studies, proposal guidelines and application materials as well as webinar schedules and archived presentations are available at www.cies.org/sir.

The deadline for academic year 2013-2014 proposals is **October 15, 2012**.



Examples of Small, Liberal Arts Colleges Hosting Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence

Wittenberg University, a small liberal arts institution, located in Springfield, Ohio, hosted Dr. Nina Vodopivec, a professor at the Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia. Dr. Vodopivec taught two undergraduate courses, *Gender and Society* and *Anthropology in Eastern Europe*, and helped strengthen the Sociology Department's commitment to developing a vibrant cultural anthropology program with a strong international focus. According to Dr. Keith Doubt, Professor of Sociology and Department Chair, "Dr. Vodopivec's teaching stirred the interest and created the desire of four students to enroll in a summer field study abroad course to Eastern Europe. Dr. Vodopivec served as inspiring model for students, particularly young women, who saw a young, adult woman excel as an international scholar, a teaching professor, and a visiting scholar at a U.S. university."

The University of Virginia's College at Wise hosted Mr. Raul Godinez Ramos from the Institute of Technology and Higher Studies--Monterrey, Mexico, for the 2010-2011 academic year. Prof. Godinez taught courses on NAFTA and U.S.-Mexico relations. He also developed the school's *first Language Across Curriculum* course, an upper level political science seminar taught in Spanish. Prof. Godinez engaged in a strong outreach program throughout southwestern Virginia and northeastern Tennessee. For many UVA-Wise students this was their first opportunity to meet a professor from Mexico. Prof. Godinez noted: "My key objective during the S-I-R year was to provide students with a more thorough perspective of U.S.-Mexico relations. In turn, I came away with a much broader understanding and appreciation of American life outside of urban centers."

Doane College in Crete, Nebraska welcomed Scholar-in-Residence Mrs. Magda Mohamed Elmahalawy, from the American University in Cairo, for academic year 2009-10. The S-I-R grant enabled Doane to offer new courses with a special focus on Arabic language, Islam and Middle Eastern studies. Mrs. Elmahalawy worked with the Department of History to evaluate and enhance courses related to Islam, Middle Eastern history and culture. She also served as a cultural advisor and resource for the International Programs Office. Mrs. Elmahalawy made presentations to civic groups, local schools, colleges and universities throughout southeastern Nebraska.

Harold Washington College, through a joint proposal with the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, hosted Dr. Vincent Sezibera, from the Department of Clinical Psychology at the National University of Rwanda. Dr. Sezibera's expertise was utilized to help internationalize the undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Applied Science. Courses taught by Dr. Sezibera included Human Growth and Development as well as Introduction to Basic Concepts in Social Work. Dr. Sezibera gave presentations on The Effect of Violence in Children and Youth from Chicago to Rwanda. Dr. Sezibera noted: "During my S-I-R Grant, I learned a lot from meeting with students as they shared their project and research proposals. I witnessed how some students have already initiated contacts with students at the National University of Rwanda. I hope that the contacts made will lead to future student projects in both countries... May this dream become a reality."

For additional examples, visit: www.cies.org/sir/stories

Case Study: Small, Liberal Arts Colleges

ALMA COLLEGE

With 98 percent of its students receiving financial aid and most coming from homogeneous, rural communities, Alma College in Michigan is always looking to broaden its understanding of the world outside the United States. At the same time, it struggles to diversify its faculty and student body, giving the college even more reason to pursue campus internationalization.

In pursuit of both goals in 2006, Alma proposed to host a scholar from Turkey. With help from the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) Program, Alma College hosted Dr. Yavuz Demir, a literary scholar from Turkey's Ondokuz Mayıs University.

During his time at Alma College, Dr. Demir taught new classes on the literature of Turkish women and Sufi Islamic literature. He also helped Alma develop its Engaging Diversity collaborative course with Marygrove College in Detroit that helped students at both colleges discuss issues involving race, class and other cultural differences.

Through Dr. Demir's efforts, students and faculty learned more about Turkish culture. He successfully invited Turkish author Nedim Gürsel to speak at Alma (as well as at Central Michigan University and the University of Michigan) and give a reading of one of his stories. In addition, Dr. Demir conducted a symposium on Turkey's efforts to join the European Union and its overall relationship with Europe.

For Alma College, the S-I-R Program brought cultural diversity and gave students and faculty a more international outlook on many issues. Your institution can enjoy similar benefits. Visit www.cies.org/sir for additional information, including tips on how to successfully apply for a Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence. Alma Ford, Program Officer for S-I-R, can also help you learn more about the program. Contact Ms. Ford at 202-686-6252 or by e-mail at sirapps@iie.org.

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