

IWL Faculty Research Grant Call for Proposals

Application Deadline: FEBRUARY 15, 2015

The Institute for World Languages invites proposals for the IWL Faculty Research Grant, newly established in 2015. The award will support faculty research on foreign language instruction or second language acquisition in any language. The award period is one year, from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. Funding may be requested for up to \$2,000 for activities or expenses associated with a scholarly or research project.

Grants: The IWL Faculty Research Grant will support scholarship and research to improve foreign/second language instruction and second language acquisition. The research project may fall into the categories of action research or empirical research. Action Research is any systematic inquiry conducted by teachers in their own classroom environment to gather information about how they teach and how well their students learn. This information is gathered with the goals of gaining insights, developing reflective practice, effecting positive changes in the class environment, and improving student outcomes (Mills, 2003). Action research is understood to be a cyclical process that includes the following stages: (1) developing a plan for improvement, (2) implementing the plan, (3) observing and documenting the effects of the plan, and (4) reflecting on the effects of the plan for further planning and informed action (Kemmis & McTaggart, 1998). (For more info, see: <http://www.cal.org/resource-center/briefs-digests/digests>). Traditional empirical research may focus on foreign language instruction and language development in a broader sense, outside of one's own classroom environment, and typically includes the formulation of hypotheses and the testing and evaluation of hypotheses through experimentation and the collection of quantitative and/or qualitative data.

Eligibility: All full-time tenure-track, tenured, or non-tenure track faculty (including lecturers) who are engaged in the teaching of foreign or second languages or English as a Second Language at UVA are welcome to apply. Preference will be given to faculty who do not have access to other forms of research support and to faculty in continuing positions at UVA. Non-UVA teachers are not eligible for this grant.

Request for Proposals

Submission: Submit proposals via e-mail to the Committee Chair, Professor Ruth Ferree (rf2c@virginia.edu) by February 15, 2015 with "IWL Faculty Research" in the subject line. The proposal should be a single PDF (please do not submit as separate PDFs) and should be labeled with the applicant's last name, first name, and department (i.e., "Smith_Jane_Department"). Please note that if you do not follow format and length guidelines, or submit more than one document, the proposal will not be accepted.

Grant Amount: Grants may range from \$500-\$2,000, depending on the availability of funds in any particular year.

Fund Restrictions: If award money is to be used for equipment, the equipment will belong to UVA for the lifetime of the equipment. Travel to conferences will not be supported.

Term of Grant: Up to one year, from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Proposal Format: Please include the following headings and sections in your proposal, which should be single-spaced and in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Proposal Length: Maximum 8 pages (excluding cover page, budget, budget justification, CV, and letter of support (optional)).

Deadline: February 15, 2015

Proposal Format

1. Cover Page: the first page of the proposal should have the following information:

- Title of Proposal
- Dates of Proposed work
- Name
- E-mail and phone
- U.Va. Department
- U.Va. Status (job title)
- Other Participants (list name, title and affiliation for each)
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2. Abstract: maximum 250 words.

3. Goals: Present the basic goals and research questions of the project.

4. Plan/method: Provide the detailed plan, including clearly defined outcomes (measurable if relevant) and a timeline for the project work.

5. Background: Explain the background to the proposal, including any previous relevant work that has been done and/or its relevance to a larger field of activity.

6. Justification: Describe the significance of the study, the relevance of the proposed project to the overall mission of IWL, how it will benefit UVA, and why the IWL should fund it.

7. Dissemination plans: Include broader plans for dissemination of results, such as presentations (at conferences, at the Roundtable series, as a workshop for the UVA

community, etc.) or publication (in the appropriate journal, online on TeacherTalk, etc.) as relevant.

8. Budget: In addition to the tabular budget, please include a narrative justification.

9. CV: Provide a 2-page CV for each applicant on the project (longer CVs will not be accepted).

10. Letter of Support (optional)

Proposal Checklist:

- 1. Cover Page
- 2. Abstract
- 3. Goals and Research Questions
- 4. Plan/method
- 5. Background
- 6. Justification
- 7. Dissemination
- 8. Budget
- 9. CV
- 10. Support letter (optional)

Notification: Applicants will be notified of award decisions by March 16, 2015.

Criteria for evaluation: Proposals will be considered based on: clarity of research question(s) or hypothesis to be tested, feasibility of the experiment, strength of the project design, concrete plans for dissemination, and significance of the study to the field and potential benefit to the IWL community. Proposals that do not adhere to the format guidelines above will not be considered.

Questions: Any questions about eligibility or suitability of proposals may be directed to the Committee Chair, Professor Ruth Ferree (rf2c@virginia.edu), and the Director of World Languages, Professor Miao-fen Tseng (mt3z@virginia.edu).