

4/28/2014

FOREIGN TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

Program Details

The Foreign Travel Grant Program offers financial support to all faculty for university-related travel to foreign countries for a set of specific activities. These resources ease the financial burden for Iowa State University faculty traveling the world as invited experts delivering keynote addresses, top researchers sharing their results, and renowned scholars sharing their gifts. These opportunities are extremely valuable for faculty professional development and establishing an institutional prominence internationally.

For the 2013-2014 academic year the Faculty Senate budget had \$27,840 for the program, the President's office provided an additional \$20,000, and the Senior Vice President and Provost's Office contributed an additional \$15,000 for a total of \$62,840. These resources were distributed between three travel cycles (Cycle 1 – August 16, 2013 to May 13, 2014, Cycle 2 – January 17, 2014 to August 15, 2014, and Cycle 3 – May 16, 2014 to January 16, 2015) for the academic year. A competitive three stage process using the departmental input, college ranking, and the university ranking. The funded applications were provided up to 75% of the round trip fare quoted by an ISU Official Travel Agent obtained by the Faculty Senate Office or 75% of the actual fare whichever is less.

Program Participation

The volume of Foreign Travel Grant applications received in one academic year has remain fairly constant throughout the years with an average of 96 application over the seven year period. Table 1 shows the number of applications and number approved each academic year. The percent of approval hovers slightly over half but clearly down from the percent calculated for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 years.

Table 1. Total number of applicants.

Academic year	Number of applicants	Number approved	Percent Approved
2007-2008	102	72	71%
2008-2009	90	65	72%
2009-2010	79	38	48%
2010-2011	83	47	57%
2011-2012	94	46	49%
2012-2013	117	79	68%
2013-2014	106	62	58%

Participation in the program by colleges does vary without any identifiable trends. Colleges with low number of applications typically have the higher percent Foreign Travel Grants approved. In the current academic year (2013-2014) all colleges had half or more of their applications funded (see Table 2.)

Table 2. Number of applicants and percent approved by college.

College	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014	
	Number Submitted	Percent Approved	Number Submitted	Percent Approved	Number Submitted	Percent Approved	Number Submitted	Percent Approved	Number Submitted	Percent Approved
AGLS	10	50%	15	60%	11	36%	14	36%	15	60%
BUS	7	57%	5	40%	8	75%	5	20%	13	62%
DES	11	55%	5	80%	7	71%	18	56%	14	71%
ENG	17	47%	17	53%	13	54%	21	48%	6	67%
HSC	3	50%	6	50%	11	45%	12	67%	6	83%
LAS	28	36%	30	50%	39	38%	40	65%	44	50%
VET	1	100%	3	100%	5	60%	12	58%	8	50%

The cost supported by the Foreign Travel Grant is a percentage of the air fare. Table 3 shows the requested amount of the estimated full air fare cost and the estimated 75% of the air fare for all applications during each academic year. Variation in air fare rates, when tickets are purchased, and differences in destinations for travelers all contribute to these fluctuations over the years. The 2013-2014 academic year reported the largest cost for both the estimated full air fare and the estimated 75% of air fare than any previous year (table 3).

Table 3. Cost of estimated air fare and 75% estimated air fare by program years

Year	Estimated full air fare	Estimated 75% of air fare
2007-2008	\$137,240	\$102,930
2008-2009	\$129,412	\$97,061
2009-2010	\$126,132	\$94,599
2010-2011	\$121,785	\$91,338
2011-2012	\$130,567	\$97,925
2012-2013	\$101,250	\$75,937
2013-2014	\$159,831	\$119,873

Program Activities

Faculty travel include many different locations. The destinations and number of faculty visiting these destinations are listed by continents in Table 4. These destinations are for the past 5 years. The destinations with the largest visitations are Europe with 147 visits and Asia with 83. All the other continents combined had only 43 visits.

There are numerous variations in the activities for each of the Foreign Travel Grants awarded. Sometimes there are combinations of activities that a faculty will accomplish during his or her travel. Regardless of the number of activities included in the faculty's trip, the primary activity for the trip are listed in Table 5. The most frequent activity in the past three years is presentation of a contributed paper (99) followed by invited paper or speaker (52).

Table 4. Destination of approved applicants by continents

Destination	Year				
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Africa	1	1	3	3	0
Antarctica	0	0	0	0	0
Asia	15	13	13	24	18
Australia	2	5	2	2	6
Europe	18	26	23	45	35
North America	2	1	2	3	2
South America	0	2	3	2	1
Totals	38	48	46	79	62

Table 5. Activities of approved applicants for past three program years

Activities	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Invited papers/speakers	9	24	19
Contributed papers	27	40	32
Organizing committees	1	2	2
Research	5	9	7
Consulting/teaching/artistic performance	4	4	2

Program Committee

The Faculty Senate Recognition and Development Committee is comprised of a representative from each college and a non-voting chair appointed by the Faculty Senate President. The membership for this academic year were:

Member	Term Ending Date	College/Position
Charles Schwab	May 2016	Chair
Steve Freeman	May 2014	CALS – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Susan Ravenscroft	May 2014	BUS – Business
Chiu Shui *	May 2014	DES – Design
Scott Chumbley	May 2014	ENG – Engineering
Tong Wang	May 2014	HSC – Human Sciences
Kirk Moloney	May 2014	LAS – Liberal Arts and Sciences
Hans Coetzee	May 2014	VET – Veterinary Medicine

* Chiu Shui did not participate in the 3rd cycle because of conflict of interest and was replaced by Kevin Kane.

Program Summary

The Foreign Travel Grant program remains very active and relevant today. There are more applications received than can be funded and those that are not funded are normally worthy applications with valuable activities planned by faculty. The Chair wishes to recognize the committee member's valuable service during this year because their terms end in May 2014.

Charles V. Schwab

Chair, Faculty Senate Recognition and Development Committee