

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### LOUIE A. BROWN VISITING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Center for International Programs coordinates Louie A. Brown Visiting International Scholars Awards program, a prestigious and competitive Valdosta State University grants program established to assist VSU colleges and departments in their efforts to bring the international dimension into our classrooms, research, and community life. Grant awards under this program focus on enabling an academic unit, or a multidisciplinary group of academic units to bring recognized international faculty to campus for a period of up to one academic year (beginning Fall or Spring semesters). The purpose of the visit is to assist in achieving institutional, college and departmental strategic internationalization goals and objectives and to strengthen VSU global position in all aspects related to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

The L.A. Brown program proposals fall in two major categories: sustainability and advancement of existing international partnerships and development of new institutional linkages and/or areas of expertise. The first group of projects focuses on bringing/exchanging faculty on joint international academic projects with VSU partner institutions abroad for a period up to one academic year to further teaching, research, and service excellence efforts according with the unit's and University's strategic goals. (*Note: In this category one semester (four months) visits have the potential of being more beneficial since they allow VSU to bring more senior/prominent visitors on campus*). Usually this category of awards requires the visitor to teach two classes per semester.

The second programmatic category offers a possibility to invite both senior and junior scholars that represent new institutions, cultures and geographic areas. The purpose of this group of projects is to develop new areas of regional expertise and, subsequently, to serve as a vehicle for bridging cultures and people, foster VSU efforts in the competition for externally funded projects and programs, as well as support our global cultural diversity efforts. Visits up to one academic year are supported through this category of awards, provided that such visits serve clear academic unit and institutional goals, with follow up plan for further development of the linkage and/or area of expertise. This category of awards requires the visitor to teach at least one three-hour class per semester, to assist in the teaching of two classes, or a combination of thereof.

All proposals need to reflect on the role of the visitor in achieving strategic international goals and objectives for the academic unit and/or for innovative multidisciplinary programs and to be aligned with the university strategy. Brown Scholar grants are awarded on the basis of proposals submitted in accordance with the guidelines described below. The number and type of awards depends on proposal quality, impact, and funding availability. The Brown Award Committee decides on proposal ranking and submits its opinion to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for a final funding/hiring decision.

The deadline for submitting proposals is November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current academic year for projects beginning Fall or Spring semester of the next academic year due to the complexity of the J1 visa process. If funds are available, the Brown Scholar Award Committee will consider additional proposals for the Spring semester of the next academic year by March 30<sup>th</sup> of the current academic year.

## Proposal Guidelines

Academic units and individual faculty members who plan to submit proposals should meet with Dr. Ivan Nikolov, Director of the Center for International Programs before submitting a proposal to discuss their plans. The purpose of this visit is to focus the project on the strategic internationalization goals of the individual unit and VSU as a whole and to discuss specifics related to the project's delivery. Special attention will be given to budgetary issues pertaining to immigration, health insurance and salary model in the context of specific cultures.

Proposals should be limited to five double-spaced pages. Each proposal should contain the following sections:

1. Context. Describe the department's or college's interest in internationalization, achievements to date, and goals for the future. Elaborate particularly on the strategic academic and internationalization goals and objectives to which the proposed visiting scholar will contribute and how.
2. Objectives and Role of Scholar. Specify the expected outcomes from the scholar's contribution. To the extent possible, formulate these outcomes in measurable terms. Be sure to address such things as:
  - a. Courses the scholar will be expected to develop and/or teach in a partnership with the VSU academic unit and/or partner;
  - b. Research, curriculum, and professional development activities in which the visiting scholar will participate and what the nature of the scholar's participation will be;
  - c. Community engagement activities beyond the department, college or university that the visiting scholar will be asked to carry out, such as conferences, visits to schools, workshops for teachers, and public lectures;
  - d. Cross-campus/interdisciplinary teaching, research and other collaborative activities involving more than one academic unit;
  - e. Feasibility of the project – make sure that the proposed budget addresses the activities mentioned in the proposal, with clear understanding of what is covered by the Brown Award and what resources are contributed by the unit.
3. Scholar Candidate/Desirable Characteristics. It is best if colleges or departments nominate a particular scholar for the position. Alternatively, they may describe the cultural/linguistic background, academic specializations, professional competencies, and other qualities of an appropriate candidate that the Center for International Programs will assist nominating. If a particular scholar is nominated, current curriculum vitae of this individual should be appended to the proposal.

4. Brown Scholar Award Funding. A typical one-semester (four months) senior visiting scholar award is up to \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) total. In cases when the visitor's stay is proposed for a shorter period due to departmental reasons, this amount will be prorated monthly salary-wise. In exceptional cases when a one academic year visit is proposed the project's budget will be agreed on a case by case basis. Generally, the award covers the cost of the visiting scholar's program, including salary, health insurance, benefits and reimbursement (partial or in full) of the scholar's roundtrip transportation to Valdosta, visa, and other related expenses. **Please note that actual salary for the Brown Scholar is dependent upon available funds and other expenditures within the total funding of the project.** The Center for International Programs (CIP) provides free housing for the visitor in a two bedroom furnished university apartment.

Junior Visiting Scholars awards are generally limited to \$6,000 (six thousand dollars). The award covers the cost of the visiting scholar's program, including salary, health insurance, benefits and reimbursement (partial or in full) of the scholar's roundtrip transportation to Valdosta, visa, and other related expenses. The Center for International Programs (CIP) provides university housing for the visitor with the proviso that junior scholars may be required to share the apartment with another junior scholar of the same sex.

5. Department/College Support. Units that propose to host a visiting scholar should describe what support will be provided by the department and/or college. Specify such things as:
- a. Office and laboratory accommodations that will be provided and the access that the scholar will be given to professional resources, including computer and clerical support;
  - b. Describe plans for integrating the scholar into the college or department and how this integration will be sustained to assure the scholar is not isolated from campus and community life.
  - c. Enumerate support available to help the scholar in his or her own professional development, including access to research projects or activities and college or departmental allocations for travel by the scholar to professional meetings.

5. Impact and Follow-Up. Address how the college or department will build on the scholar's contribution in further strengthening its efforts to internationalize after the scholar's return home, including soliciting research and other academic support from external funding agencies.

Proposals should be submitted by the deadlines specified above to Dr. Ivan Nikolov at the Center for International Programs. Notification of awards will be made by January 15 of the following year for Fall and April 15 for Spring of the next academic year.

*Note: Upon arrival to VSU all scholars in J visa category must first check-in with the Center for International Programs (CIP) immigration specialists (David Starling or Irina McClellan).*