LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS (LABs)

Overview

The Learning Across Borders program (LABs) supports faculty-led programs of short duration (1-2 weeks) that allow faculty members to share their scholarship with students in an international context and connect to curricular themes outside of the traditional classroom. These can be curricular or co-curricular programs (the latter being activities outside of but complementary to the official curriculum, such as a civic or service activity outside the classroom) with the goal of providing opportunities for faculty members to contribute their scholarly expertise in a way that enriches students’ academic experience and fosters global perspectives in the existing curriculum. Beyond the obvious benefits to students, LABs projects also allow faculty members the opportunity to share intellectual interests with students and colleagues outside of defined research expectations and disciplinary boundaries and to support exploration in new or emerging areas of intellectual inquiry.

Awards of up to $50,000 will be considered and priority will be given to proposals for new projects over those previously funded by other sources. In recognition of the fact that many departments and programs administer endowed or term funds that are restricted and require the University to spend them before unrestricted general funds, and in order to make this fund accessible to as many faculty members as possible, we ask all applicants to seek a financial commitment from their department chair or program director to include with their proposal to LABs. The selection committee recognizes that available resources vary among departments or sponsoring programs for supporting these types of activities, and this will be taken into account when the proposal is reviewed.

Here are some examples of projects that faculty members might undertake that would be eligible for LABs funding:

- A fall-break trip to Peru to study pre-Columbian art objects in a course focusing on the broad art historical research skills of object study

- A one-week extension of a Global Summer Seminar to allow students to carry out community-based research with a faculty member

- An opportunity for a faculty PI and both graduate and undergraduate members of her lab to visit an international colleague’s research operation for a week in the summer

- A faculty-led one-week trip linked to an advanced language course

The Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Operations will provide logistical support for trips undertaken with LABs funding. This support will include pre-trip preparation and planning; travel arrangements, in collaboration with the Office
of Finance and Treasury; visa assistance; training in first aid and health & safety; and security-vetting of itineraries by International SOS, the University’s medical and travel security assistance partner.

**Eligibility**

All regular faculty members (senior lecturers, instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, and professors) are eligible; early-career faculty members are welcome to apply. Full-time lecturers and language lecturers are also eligible, provided their appointments for the award period have been approved by the Dean of the Faculty. Other faculty, research, and administrative staff members of the University may be co-proposers.

**Application Timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 15, 2018</td>
<td>Applications available</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15, 2018</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<td>March 15, 2019</td>
<td>Notifications made</td>
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**Indication of Interest**

As a first step, please contact the Vice Provost for International Affairs & Operations, Anastasia Vrachnos (8-2560, atv@princeton.edu), to indicate interest and discuss your LABs idea.

**Selection Procedure**

Proposals will be evaluated by a faculty committee convened by the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Operations and, as appropriate, other senior academic administrators (e.g., deans and deputy/associate deans of the faculty, the graduate school, the college, the school of engineering, and research). The selection committee may ask for revisions to the proposal before final approval of funding.

**Reporting Requirements**

Faculty members are asked to a) submit a brief (2 page) report on the outcomes of their LABs initiative and b) have their students design an event, presentation, or academic product that will help bring their learnings back to campus and share the insights they gained more broadly with the campus community.

**Components of the application for LABs.**

1. **Cover sheet with basic information** [Please use template on website]
   a. Proposer’s name/department and contact information
   b. Optional: Co-proposer’s name/department and contact information
c. Project name

d. Project start/end date

e. Department chair’s / program director’s financial commitment / endorsement

f. Optional: 2nd department chair’s / program’s director’s financial commitment / endorsement

2. **Project description** [up to 5 pages, no more than 2000 words, shorter is welcome]

a. Project plan

b. How the project supports the objectives of the LABs program

c. Participants in the project

d. Benefits of the project to Princeton faculty members and students

3. **Project budget** [Please use this [template]]

a. Eligible expenses include travel, meals, housing, and ground transportation for faculty members, postdocs, other instructors, and students; honoraria and fees from host organizations; visa, medical, and other required fees in preparation for travel; and equipment, material, and supplies.

b. Under “sources/income” section, include funding committed by your department/program as well as funding from other sources applied for or committed.


d. Funding from LABs may be available for expenditure as soon as February 15, 2019. Project length may be up to one year.

**Contact Us**
For further information, please contact Vice Provost Anastasia Vrachnos (8-2560, atm@princeton.edu) or Associate Director for International Affairs Claire Hu (8-7232, c.h@princeton.edu).