Orfalea Research Clusters

Application Deadline October 18, 2013

The Orfalea Center wants to encourage collaborative work and new ideas by supporting innovative research clusters on specific topics related to global and international studies. This will help to fulfill the Center’s mandate of being an interdisciplinary focal point for such studies throughout the campus.

PURPOSE
The purpose is to provide small amounts of targeting funding to enhance the intellectual activity and research capability of clusters of UCSB scholars working on topics related to globalization, global themes and processes, international studies, or area studies issues as they transcend regional and cultural boundaries, emphasizing interdisciplinarity and cross-departmental collaboration.

The Orfalea Research Cluster initiative will give priority to proposals on new research areas. It will also consider proposals that take ongoing research initiatives in a demonstrably new direction.

ELIGIBILITY
Cluster Composition: minimum of 5 collaborators of which 3 collaborators must be ladder rank faculty from at least 2 departments/units. Beyond this, groups may also include lecturers and academic coordinators, and grad student members are to be encouraged.

The criteria for funding a project are 1) that the project involves new, not ongoing research, and 2) that the themes of the proposed project focus on issues of global concern or with global impact. Proposals can be made jointly to the Orfalea Center and other funding sources, but the proposal should clarify how the funds will to be used from each source.

Use of Funds: Support is intended for expenses such as these:
- UCSB-based planning workshop or conference (venue and A/V equipment rental; meal costs up to posted UC limits but no alcohol expenses; other logistical costs)
- research travel: basic travel costs of cluster members for research or consultation outside campus (transportation & hotel, standard per diem)
- grad student hires for direct support of research, workshop planning, proposal writing or other activity related to the purposes of the project
- support for designing and maintaining websites
- other uses that are consistent with the goals of the project.
AWARD AMOUNTS
Awards will usually be granted in a range between $2000 and $10,000. There will be two annual call cycles, one in October and one in February.

A cluster proposal request might not be funded for the full amount requested. If such a project is deemed to be promising, however, the cluster may be encouraged to re-apply for further funding in a later round.

Duration: funds to be expended within one calendar year of the notification of award date

HOW TO APPLY
Applications must be submitted by email to clusters@orfaleacenter.ucsb.edu and should consist of the following (submitted as two separate attachments):

1. A one-paragraph summary of the project and a list of all campus-based project participants/affiliations.

2. A proposal of no more than five single-spaced pages, detailing intent of the project, methods, how it addresses the selection criteria, a timetable, and the roles of all participants. It should also append the following:
   - a budget itemizing all major activities and their projected costs
   - costs to be covered by other funding sources (if applicable)
   - a short CV (two pages maximum) of each project participant

The application deadlines are October 18 for the fall cycle, and February 18 for the winter/spring cycle. Applications received after the deadlines will not be accepted.

ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT
The funds will be transferred to the department of the lead participant in the cluster (or other campus unit as designated by the cluster) and administered by that unit.

The Orfalea Center will provide administrative advice and programmatic consultation. It will also provide, on a space available basis, meeting space.

SELECTION COMMITTEE
Benjamin J. Cohen, Political Science
Michael Curtin, Film & Media Studies
Eve Darian-Smith, Global & International Studies
Bhaskar Sarkar, Film & Media Studies
Mark Juergensmeyer, Orfalea Center
Melvin Oliver, Dean, L&S Social Sciences Division