

Immigration Research Summer Awards (IRSA)

First Round – Summer 2012

(Updated Version, 03-26-12)

The Immigration Research Summer Awards (IRSA) is a newly created program sponsored by the Division of Social Sciences, the QC Office for Institutional Advancement, and the Immigration Studies Working Group (ISWG), and funded by the Queens College Foundation. The purpose of this initiative is to promote collaborative work and feasible research projects that address relevant and timely immigration issues, both in the US and abroad. This program is part of a broader research agenda towards spearheading the creation of the Center on Immigration Studies at QC (CISQC).

As explicitly stated in the QC College's Strategic Plan 2008-13, the foundation of CISQC is pivotal for strengthening the College's focus on issues pertaining the ethnic and cultural characteristics of both our borough and city, by creating a Center that promises to become "the premier source of information about immigration flows in the region and their impacts." (QC Strategic Plan 2008, pg. 13). In seeking to further define its mission, CISQC is committed to providing a research and teaching umbrella for the existing related centers, programs, and initiatives working on a variety of relevant immigrant-related topics. CISQC will promote inter-disciplinary research on the contributions, social conditions, and unmet needs (including health, economic and educational barriers) of new immigrants and their children, with a particular focus on Queens.

The Immigration Research Summer Awards (IRSA) will provide partial research funds to full-time faculty whose projects aim to foster the Center's main mission. Proposals should demonstrate feasibility and promise that the project will be developed into larger proposals, which will be submitted to an external funding agency following the award period.

Selection Committee

A Selection Committee comprised by QC faculty and chaired by Dr. Betsy Hendrey, Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, will evaluate all proposals and will make the final decisions. In this first round, the Committee expects to fund approximately 3-5 awards. In all instances, funding is subject to the availability of funds and budgetary approvals.

Eligibility

Projects will be assessed on the basis of their clarity, quality, and viability of the proposed research plan, as well as on their potential to be funded by external agencies. Full-time faculty members from all QC Divisions are encouraged to apply. Please note that only full-time faculty, either untenured or tenured, are eligible for this grant. Proposals that include inter-disciplinary and multi-methods approaches, involving QC faculty from different departments and divisions, are especially welcome. Preference will be given to junior scholars, whose research on immigrant issues shows promise for future collaborations with CISQC. In case of projects including more than one principal investigator, the role of each researcher should be clearly detailed.

Award Amounts

IRSA Awards will range between US \$ 3,000 and US \$ 4,000 and can be used for either summer salary or research expenses, including paying stipends to research assistants or to postgraduate researchers. For grantees choosing a summer stipend, payments for the total amount of the award will be made at the beginning of the award period. In case of projects with more than one principal investigator, each researcher will receive a separate check. For grantees opting to pay for research expenses, including stipends for graduate students or postgraduate researchers, the release of funds will be made upon payment requests for completed services.

Submission guidelines

All projects must clearly state the research process including general and specific objectives, conceptual framework, and summary of the literature, methods, and expected results. Proposals should include the following items:

- 1) Applicants' names, academic position, and institutional affiliation (division and department).
- 2) Project Summary: A maximum of 200 words.
- 3) Narrative description of the research project. This section should have a maximum of 3 single-spaced pages, including references and citations, with one-inch borders and 12-point type.
- 4) Statement of the investigators' commitment to fostering the Center's mission. This section should include an explanation of how the project will benefit future collaborations with CISQC.
- 5) Potential for external funding. Candidates should identify a program (with either public or private agencies) that will be interested in future funding of their projects.

- 6) Biographical sketch: A brief biographical sketch (one for each faculty member) of 2-3 paragraphs should accompany the proposal.
- 7) All awardees are expected to submit reports at the end of the Fall 2012. Reports will either consist of a summary of the final proposal submitted to an external agency, or a progress report toward that goal. Compliance with this item will be considered for future eligibility for IRSA rounds.

Submission Procedures

Proposals must be addressed to the attention of the IRSA Selection Committee and submitted via e-mail only (in word or PDF format) to the following email address: immigration.studies@qc.cuny.edu. Please write IRSA Proposal in the subject line of your e-mail. Proposals should be sent out not later than on Monday, April 30, 2012. For any additional questions please e-mail Dr. Anahi Viladrich, Chair of the Immigration Working Group at QC (anahi.viladrich@qc.cuny.edu).

Timeline

Deadline for submitting electronic proposals: Monday, April 30, 2012.

Deadline for notification of final decisions: Monday, May 28, 2012.