

# **The William G and Elke F. Durden International Initiatives Fund**

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**In general support of the overall goals of the *Durden International Initiatives Fund*, and as a specific way to encourage and to enhance Dickinson College undergraduate student research, the Center for Global Study and Engagement (CGSE) calls for student proposals to undertake independent study projects abroad.**

**Students are encouraged to meet with CGSE staff to discuss this in detail, and the Center will also hold periodic information sessions on this initiative for interested students.**

**The basics are as follows. Dickinson students in good academic standing who have a serious interest in investigating a trans-disciplinary theme of significant importance to global life may propose to undertake an *independent study project abroad*. Such projects may be self-standing and be implemented abroad during the summer or January, or they may be pursued in lieu of one course as part of a student's approved fall or spring semester study abroad program.**

**Projects must be related to the student's academic trajectory at Dickinson College; they must involve research and field learning that could not readily be accomplished on the Dickinson campus or in the United States; and they must result in an academic paper of publishable quality.**

**For January 2015, spring semester 2015, summer 2015, or at any point during Academic Year 2015-16, special consideration and priority will be given to student project proposals that address local, national and transnational perspectives on the following major global themes:**

- ***Environmental Sustainability.*** This may include, for example, questions of natural resource use; energy production; scientific and technological approaches to sustainability; the politics and/or science of water; green building, sustainable architecture, and urban planning; environmental degradation; bio-diversity; climate change; or the relationships between economic development and a sustainable environment.
  
- ***Human Migration & Immigration.*** This may include, for example, issues of economic migration; refugee resettlement; human rights and asylum seekers; cross-border tensions due to migration; the experiences of immigrants themselves; historical analysis of the causes and consequences of human mobility; or immigration policies.
  
- ***Peace-building and Conflict Resolution.*** This may include, for example, questions of international or civil war; ethnic conflict in deeply divided societies; linguistic and cultural nationalisms; war crime tribunals and international law; approaches to peace-building and conflict management; or transition issues in post-conflict societies.
  
- ***Literature, Art, Music, Theatre & the Creative Imagination.*** This may include explorations of global influences on national and regional literature; global contributions by public intellectuals and artists; or the impact of cultural diversity and cultural homogeneity on the arts. For this theme, students may propose an artistic or performance presentation in lieu of an academic paper.

**Funding** to support independent study projects along these lines is modest, and is normally limited to support and financial allowance toward (but not to cover completely) such basics costs as research travel, supplies, and room & board supplements, and related expenses for *up to three weeks abroad*. Grants normally range from **US\$1500-\$3000**.

**Application Deadlines:**

**January 2015 Projects: October 1, 2014**

**Spring Semester 2015 Projects: November 1, 2014**

**Summer 2015 Projects: April 1, 2015**

**Fall Semester 2015 Projects: June 1, 2015**

**January 2016 Projects: October 1, 2014**

**Spring Semester 2016 Projects: November 1, 2015**

**Application Requirements:**

- 1. Attendance at an Information Session or, alternatively, at least one individual advising meeting at the CGSE.***
- 2. Statement of Purpose (2 pages). This must include a clear explanation of the project, background preparation, and methodology.***
- 3. Letter of Support from a Dickinson College Faculty Member***
- 4. Budget Outline (1 page)***
- 5. Personal Interview***