

Global Learning Program Development Awards

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024-25

Virginia Commonwealth University's Global Education Office (GEO) is pleased to announce the **Global Learning Program Development Awards**, which will grant at least **five awards of up to \$5,000** for projects related to developing new global learning programs including education abroad, domestic study away with a global focus, or virtual exchange. To diversify opportunities for students, **areas of priority** have been established to encourage proposals in areas of strategic interest, specifically, Mexico, India, the African continent, and Brazil or Portugal. At least one award in three of the aforementioned regions is anticipated. Additionally, there are two opportunities for faculty or staff to propose innovative courses and program offerings at two new partner institutions: CEPA and IAU. For more details, see section below on award amounts and areas of priority.

Education abroad

Funding for education abroad is intended to support faculty, departments or schools that seek significant increases in study abroad participation through new short-term programming integrated into departmental curricula in ways that promote academic and financial sustainability. Priority will be given to units not yet offering established opportunities for their majors. Successful programming will articulate with the academic program. Proposed education abroad programs should plan to operate between December-August 2025. Applicants are expected to follow guidelines in the [Global Learning Faculty Leader Handbook](#) and to also submit a separate [new faculty-led program proposal](#) to the Global Education Office when the program proposal process opens in spring 2024. Additionally, there are two opportunities for faculty or staff to propose innovative education abroad courses and program offerings at two new partner institutions: CEPA and IAU. For more details, see section below on award amounts and areas of priority.

Domestic study away with a global focus

Funding for domestic study away programs with a global focus is intended to support faculty, departments or schools that seek to develop new, domestic short-term study away programs centered on one or more of the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#). Proposed domestic programs should operate between December-August 2025. Funding may be used to cover expenses related to a faculty site visit conducted between August-December 2024 to explore potential destinations within the United States and its territories. Applicants are expected to follow guidelines in the [Global Learning Faculty Leader Handbook](#) and to also submit a separate [new domestic program proposal](#) to the Global Education Office when the program proposal process opens in spring 2024.

Virtual exchange

Funding for virtual exchange programs is intended to support those seeking to incorporate a virtual, collaborative, international component into an existing course at VCU. Virtual exchange, also known as COIL, or Collaborative Online International Learning, is an excellent way to increase access to global education, and help students develop intercultural agility and other skills that will benefit them academically and professionally (watch this video for more on [virtual exchange](#)).

Award amounts and areas of priority

While no fixed number of the awards has been set, we anticipate awarding **five grants of up to \$5,000 each**. The final number and amount of awards will depend on the merits of each proposal as determined by reviewers. Successful applicants will be expected to work closely with staff in GEO's Global Learning department for guidance and support in project development. These awards are not intended to fund one-time events, attendance at professional meetings, equipment purchases or other expenses typically covered by existing budgets. Awards may be used for faculty/staff exploratory travel (i.e. site visits), but in the interest of program sustainability, should not be used to offset student travel costs through direct subsidies.

To diversify opportunities for students, **areas of priority** have been established to encourage proposals in geographic areas of strategic interest, specifically, Mexico, India, the African continent, and Brazil or Portugal. At least one award in three of the aforementioned regions is anticipated.

Additionally, there are two opportunities for faculty or staff to propose new courses and/or programs in collaboration with two new partner institutions: [CEPA European Study Center](#) and [Institute for American Universities \(IAU\)](#). GEO welcomes proposals from VCU faculty or staff to:

1. Develop a new course in summer 2025 at either:
 - a. [CEPA's European Study Center in Strasbourg](#) or at
 - b. IAU's programs in [Aix-en-Provence, France](#), or either [Barcelona](#) or [Madrid, Spain](#); or
2. Develop a new faculty-led program at IAU's sites in Italy ([Florence](#)) or Morocco ([Tangier](#)).

Faculty or staff interested in teaching at CEPA (option 1.a.) should propose the course they will teach which should complement CEPA's intercultural communications course and replace the Sustainable Leadership course (both of which are currently offered on CEPA's summer program). CEPA welcomes course proposals covering a broad range of topics, including but not limited to: democratic and free enterprise systems in the EU, social responsibility, leadership, and intercultural communication. Proposals for first-year student programming are strongly encouraged.

Faculty or staff interested in developing a course on CEPA's summer program (option 1.a.) or at one of IAU's sites (option 1.b.) should submit the proposed syllabus and CV of the instructor along with the project narrative.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, a \$3000 award from CEPA and a \$5,000 award from IAU will be provided to selected faculty or staff with potential for matching support from GEO as seed funding to develop a course/program, and to promote, subsidize, and support it in its inaugural year. Faculty or staff whose proposals are selected will be expected to work closely with GEO's Global Learning team and with the host institutions on the development of their courses/programs.

Deadline

The completed proposal should be received by the Global Education Office by **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**. Completed proposals can be submitted electronically to geo@vcu.edu. Please include "Global Learning" in the subject line of your email. Awards will be announced by June 15, 2024 and should be used by June 30, 2025. Award recipients agree to provide a final report at the end of the award period and to provide promotional credit to the Global

Education Office. Questions should be addressed to Dr. Jill Blondin, Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives (jblondin@vcu.edu) and Stephanie Tignor, Director of Global Learning (davenportse@vcu.edu).

Evaluation criteria

- Alignment with unit's strategic goals and metrics of [VCU Quest 2028: One VCU Together We Transform](#)
- Alignment with the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- Feasibility of proposed program and evidence that award will result in a sustained, significant impact towards internationalizing VCU
- Promise of sustained enrollment for the program
- Degree of commitment from units and partner universities
- Creativity and innovation of proposed work
- Reflection of current national best practices
- Track record in successful implementation of complex initiatives

Proposals must include

Project narrative (prepared with 12 point font, one-inch margins, and no longer than three double-spaced pages) must address the following:

- Summary of proposal
- Description of the program and the work to be done to establish the program
- Relation to current programming, initiatives, or priorities in relevant VCU unit(s)
- Relevance of any external partner(s)
- Anticipated outcomes and significance of the proposed activity and impact on campus internationalization
- Evaluation plan
- Timeline of when the project is expected to take place
- Syllabus (only for CEPA or IAU proposals)
- CV of faculty or staff leader (only for CEPA and IAU proposals)
- Budget, including how the funds will be spent and any cost sharing provided by department/school (cost sharing is not required)
- A letter of support from director/chair of each unit involved addressing the proposal's fit with the department and academic unit's strategic goals and campus internationalization