

## Learning Across America

Call for Proposals: Due August 19, 2021

### Background

In 2019, CALS launched *Learning Across America* to complement our nationally recognized study abroad program. The goal of Learning Across America is to expand opportunities available to our undergraduate students to learn about the tremendous diversity of cultures, food and agriculture systems, natural resources, and life sciences within the U.S. After a delay due to the COVID pandemic, we plan to grow Learning Across America starting this summer and fall. For details of upcoming programs see: <https://www.agstudyabroad.iastate.edu/learning-across-america> The extended Winter Session will offer additional opportunity for travel.

The CALS Offices of Academic Innovation and Study Abroad office are facilitating this effort. Expanding the number of students who have the opportunity to engage in transformative ‘study away’ experiences, whether globally or domestically, will help inspire and advance our students’ curiosity, critical thinking, communication, leadership, professional development, cultural awareness, and citizenship competencies. CALS faculty and staff have a unique opportunity to impact the preparation of our students in these areas by exposing them to relevant urban and rural environments, cultures, communities and industries across the United States.

### Call for Proposals

The Dean’s Office of Academic Innovation requests proposals to support faculty and faculty/staff-led groups of undergraduate students traveling to domestic locations to experience, learn and earn credit. Proposals can include a stand-alone travel course or a for-credit travel option added to an existing course.

### Illustrative Examples

- Learning with dairy producers in Arizona such as [Shamrock Farms](#)
- Learning with food and agricultural business start-ups in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco bay area such as [Memphis Meats](#) and [Blue River Technology](#).
- Service learning with community groups rebuilding in response to natural disasters, or responding to issues related to food insecurity or environmental degradation.
- Learning with community change agents in Appalachia such as [Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky](#)
- Learning with and from students from HBCU’s about regional agricultural practices and crops that are unique to the Southeastern US.
- Learning with Native American communities such as Pine Ridge (S. Dakota), Menominee (Wisconsin), Meskwaki (Iowa).
- Learning with practitioners in the life sciences in places such as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.
- Exploring agriculture/natural resources in southern Florida, northern Maine, etc.

## CALS Satellite Campuses

Note that CALS has two satellite campuses that you can consider.

- [Fork in the Road](#), St. John, US Virgin Islands
  - Option - Learn about tropical agricultural and food systems, natural resources and the environment of island ecosystems, and U.S. Virgin Island cultures.
- [Rod and Connie French Conservation Camp](#), near Missoula, Montana
  - Option – Learn about cattle ranching and natural resource management with local cattle ranchers and/or the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe.

### **Priority will be given to proposals with the following characteristics:**

- Learning location(s) within the US that are significantly different from what students experience in Ames, Iowa.
- Programs that link this domestic travel and study to the achievement of learning outcomes in US Diversity, critical thinking, ethics, and communication.  
<https://www.cals.iastate.edu/assessment/outcomes>
- Commitment to deliberately, as part of the learning outcomes, expose/engage students in the cultural diversity of the US (similar to study abroad trips).
- Clearly articulated and measurable learning objectives that include both the human dimensions and disciplinary/technical/industry link to the locations.
- Groups of 10 or more undergraduate student participants representing diverse majors and perspectives.
- Commitment to offering the course at least twice.
- Faculty and/or faculty/staff led. Teams of current and emeritus faculty, industry representatives, staff, and graduate student leaders are welcome.
- Evidence that traveler safety is a priority.
- Credit-bearing (at least one credit).
- Proposals that demonstrate cost-sharing from faculty or departmental or external partner resources.
- Proposals that are attractive to students in CALS majors and minors, as well as students outside of CALS.
- Evidence that the course has been discussed with and endorsed by the department chair (a short email will suffice). Note: these courses do not substitute for existing course load obligations, unless agreed to by the department chair.

We anticipate awarding up to 10 grants of between \$3-5,000 for travel courses taking place in the 2021/2022 academic year (including Winter Session). Funds may be used to partially support the planning and conduct of domestic travel/learning of 7 days minimum (e.g. site visits, summary salary). Smaller grants will also be awarded for travel less than 7 days.

Assistance with the development of these courses including, but not limited to, building a budget, calculating and assessing program course fees, covering faculty costs, program

promotion and student recruitment is available from the **CALS Study Abroad office**. Please contact Shelley Taylor at [sztaylor@iastate.edu](mailto:sztaylor@iastate.edu).

Proposals are welcome from any faculty (or a staff member collaborating with a faculty leader) from any CALS department. Proposals are due August 19, 2021, and should be submitted electronically to Carmen Bain, Associate Dean of Academic Innovation: [cbain@iastate.edu](mailto:cbain@iastate.edu)

Proposals should not exceed ~3 pages including:

- brief description of the travel/learning program. Include length of trip, proposed travel dates (e.g. Thanksgiving Break; Winter Session; Spring Break; Summer), whether this is a stand-alone travel course or a for-credit travel option added to an existing course.
- rationale for the program
- estimated costs for student participants
- name(s) of instructor(s)
- estimated number of students enrolled
- priority areas addressed in this Call for Proposals
- plans for using the proposed award amount

Funds will be transferred to an account for professional development for A-base faculty. B-base faculty may choose to use the funds for summer salary or professional development. All funds need to be spent within 12 months of completion of the travel course. A 2-page completion report (plus pictures) is required within three months of the completion of the trip.