

Islam, the West, and the Muslim World

Announcement and Call for Applications

The University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Program invites applications from 1) full-time faculty employed at member institutions of the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies (CERIS) and 2) secondary education or intermediate unit curriculum specialists from intermediate units in Western Pennsylvania to participate in *Islam, the West, and the Muslim World*, a short term group study program that includes four week travel to Egypt. The purpose of this program is to expand Islamic studies related curriculum at the tertiary and secondary level in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. The Fulbright Hays short-term seminar program is designed to help integrate international studies into an institution's or school system's general curriculum.

Ten educators from CERIS member institutions, and two curriculum specialists employed by school districts located in intermediate units 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, and 8, will be selected for the program.

Acceptance into the program requires participants to

- attend a pre-departure workshop and complete assigned readings,
- participate in the four week study tour in Egypt (June 24–July 22, 2007),
- attend a post-travel curriculum development workshop, and
- participate in two professional development sessions for teachers at regional workshops.

The program is designed for participants to learn about the basic beliefs, practices, and historical development of Islam; explore the pivotal role Egypt has assumed in encounters between East and West, from ancient Greek, Roman, and Christian influences to the inception of Islam, through the Crusades and the colonial era, and into the post-colonial age; experience the cultures and varied interpretations of Islam present in Egypt as a microcosm of the Muslim world; and explore how these interpretations have influenced economic, political, educational, and social developments in Egypt, the Muslim world, and its continuing encounter with the West.

Participants will travel to Egypt on June 24 and return July 22, 2007, and spend from five to ten days in each of three cities. Beginning in Luxor, the focus will be on ancient Egypt and its relations with the civilizations of Greece and Rome, and to explore religious diversity outside the capital from Christian monasticism to Sufi mysticism. In Alexandria the fusion of East and West will be emphasized, from ancient times through the Crusades to the British occupation. In Cairo, participants will investigate the evolution of religious diversity and the spread of Islam into contemporary society. The experiential program will engage participants in seminars with faculty at South Valley and Cairo Universities, and meeting discussions with leaders of religious, cultural, political, and community organizations. Guided tours of historic sites and attendance at cultural performances are also planned. The program will facilitate opportunities for research through pre-travel readings and access to libraries and institutes while in Egypt. A working itinerary is posted at www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/opportunities.html.

Orientation and Follow Up

Participants will begin preparation for their in-country experience by participating in the CERIS Member Readers' Forum. Members will read books and articles providing the foundation for workshop dialogue and in-country study. On April 21 a day long workshop will provide content seminars on culture, history, religion, economics, and education. A shorter workshop in June will include rudimentary language acquisition and basic information regarding travel. After returning from Egypt, a one day curriculum workshop will be devoted to the development of curriculum and the process of integrating modules into on-going courses. Participants are required to participate in two secondary teacher workshops to be held in academic year 2007–08.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Faculty member at a CERIS member institution engaged in area studies, teacher education, or a modern foreign language.
- A full-time high school teacher in social studies, social sciences, humanities, or foreign language with experience in curriculum design and employed by a school district located in intermediate units 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, or 8.

Selection Criteria

Tertiary faculty applicants will be evaluated on the relevance of their current course load, their proposed integration of project experiences into existing or new courses, and their envisioned incorporation of electronic dialogue between U.S. and Egyptian students into those classes.

Secondary level curriculum specialists will be evaluated based on teaching experience, curriculum experience, and curricular innovation in interdisciplinary education.

Application packages will be weighed using the following scale:

APPLICATION, PART A: Applicant Information Form (available on Web site), plus

- Curriculum Vitae attachment – 10 points
- Previous International Experience attachment – 5 points
- Demonstrated Need attachment – 35 points
- Project and Implementation Plan attachment – 40 points

APPLICATION, PART B: References Forms (available on Web site)

- Two reference forms, including one from a direct supervisor, each submitted with separate document attachment – 10 points

Participants must commit to presenting in two Act 48 level workshops for social studies teachers in the western Pennsylvania region. The sessions will be coordinated by the social studies advisor of the Pennsylvania Department of Education in cooperation with the participants. In addition, participants will publish their new syllabi on the CERIS Web site and the Pennsylvania Department of Education educational hub.

Applicants will be selected by a committee of educational experts from several universities and the Pa. Department of Education based on requirements stated in the program announcement and application. The program will follow the University of Pittsburgh's policy of nondiscrimination: the University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.

Program Fees and Expenses

Successful applicants will be required to contribute \$1,200 towards program expenses and academic support for pre- and post-study tour curriculum development. Educators are encouraged to secure these funds from their home institutions.

The Fulbright Hays Group Study Project grant will cover the following expenses:

- International round trip air fare to Egypt
- Transportation costs in Egypt
- Hotel costs and meals at a per diem level
- Entrance fees to historic and cultural sites

The grant does *not* cover these costs:

- Medical expenses for preventive inoculations or other personal medical costs
- Required traveler's insurance
- Passport and visa fees
- Personal and incidental expenses in Egypt
- Travel to and from airport, and pre- and post-travel workshops in the U.S.

Application Procedure

Please submit the following no later than April 25, 2007:

- Part A: Application Form and required attachments (1 original and 2 copies)
- Part B: Two Reference Forms with attachments (*Note: One of the two references must be from a direct supervisor; each hand-signed reference form with attachment must be in its own envelope with the reference person's signature hand-written across the sealed envelope flap.*)

The *Islam, the West, and the Muslim World* application can be found online at www.cerisnet.org. Send completed application packets to Elaine Linn, assistant director of Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, University Center for International Studies, Global Studies Program, 4102 Posvar Hall, 230 Bouquet Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

For questions not answered at our Web site, please contact Elaine Linn at 412-648-2113 or EEL58@ucis.pitt.edu.