GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FUND (GEF)

Purpose
The Global Engagement Fund is a competitive grant program that seeds creative, cross-disciplinary projects that will further Penn’s global initiatives. It is designed to offer maximum flexibility to support faculty initiatives that enhance Penn’s global engagement. Goals of the fund include:

- **Goal 1:** Promote collaboration across Schools and disciplines;
- **Goal 2:** Engage regions of the world in which Penn has active academic partnerships and collaborative activities; and
- **Goal 3:** Catalyze entrepreneurial research and engagements in a global context.

Background
Penn Global provides strategic direction for Penn’s global endeavors with a focus on efficient investment of university resources for global activities. Penn Global collaborates with Schools and Centers across the University and seeks catalyze cross-School collaborations to integrate knowledge that address key issues.

Through the Global Engagement Fund, Penn Global aims to advance the three strategic pillars outlined in the Strategic Framework for Penn’s Global Initiatives, 2012 – 2017. These three strategic pillars are: (1) prepare students for an increasingly globalized society; (2) strengthen Penn as a global agenda setter; and (3) promote healthy, inspiring, and productive lives. The Strategic Framework for Penn’s Global Initiatives, 2012 – 2017 was approved and adopted in January 2013.
GEF Funding Priorities
Penn Global seeks to fund initiatives that aim to fulfill the following funding priorities of the Global Engagement Fund.

Goal 1: Promote collaboration across Schools and disciplines.
In the Strategic Framework, cross-School research and service initiatives are highlighted as key means “to strengthen and expand Penn’s efforts in global leadership development.” The GEF seeks to further our goal of integrating knowledge by funding initiatives that foster collaborations among faculty from various Schools and disciplines.

A. Collaboration across Schools.
The GEF seeks to promote collaboration across multiple Penn Schools, centers, and organizations.

B. Collaboration across disciplines.
The GEF seeks to promote collaboration across disciplines, including, but not limited to the following:

- Agriculture/Agricultural Development
- Arts
- Civil Rights, Race/Intergroup Relations
- Civil/Human Rights
- Community/Economic Development
- Conflict Resolution
- Crime/Violence & Abuse Prevention
- Democracy & Civil Society
- Development
- Economic Development
- Economics
- Education
- Employment
- Environment/Environmentalism
- Foreign Policy
- Gender Issues
- Government/Public Administration
- Health
- Housing/Shelter, Development
- Human Services
- Information Services
- International Affairs
- International Exchange
- International Migration/Refugee Issues
- Law
- Leadership Development
- Media/Communications
- Microfinance
- Peace/Security
- Performance Management/Technical Assistance
- Performing Arts
- Poverty
- Public Affairs, Citizen Participation
- Religion, Interfaith Issues
- Reproductive Health
- Rural Development
- Social Sciences
- Technology
- Urban/Community Development
- Youth Development
- Other

1 Strategic Framework for Penn’s Global Initiatives 2012-2017 (December 2012). *University of Pennsylvania Almanac*, 59 (14). [http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n14/for-comment.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n14/for-comment.html)
Goal 2: Engage countries or regions of the world in that Penn Global has identified as strategic areas for increased engagement and/or that focuses on one of the thematic areas listed above.

In the Strategic Framework, four key regions outside of Europe – China, India, Africa, and Latin America – were identified and “selected based on current programming, historical relationships, Penn’s strengths for addressing issues, and growing global importance.”2 The GEF seeks to engage these highlighted regions by funding academic partnerships and collaborative activities by Penn faculty working in these regions. However, the GEF will also support faculty initiatives outside of these regions if applicants provide sufficient evidence of need to focus on other geographic locales.

A. Regional Priorities
The GEF seeks to engage the following priority countries or regions:
- India
- Africa
- Latin America

For applicants interested in engaging in China, please refer to our Penn China Research and Engagement Fund. For all other regions of interest, please refer to our Investigator-Initiated Program.

B. Other Regions of Interest
The GEF also seeks to expand its engagement and will consider proposals that focus on one of the thematic areas in other geographic locales.

Goal 3: Catalyze entrepreneurial research and engagements in a global context.

To “strengthen Penn as a global agenda-setter,”3 the GEF seeks to fund initiatives that facilitate and support the development of new courses, projects, and research initiatives. Specifically, the GEF seeks to increase global activity and to promote research and engagement on the part of Penn faculty around the world.

The GEF will also fund existing work that is taken in a new direction. We encourage prospective applicants to review the types of support the GEF provides, to ensure their proposal qualifies for funding.

---

3 Ibid.

Questions
If you have any questions, please contact global@exchange.upenn.edu
GEF Funding Opportunities
There are two mechanisms through which eligible candidates can apply for funding: the Global Engagement Fund Annual Program and the GEF Investigator-Initiated Program. The GEF Annual Program is solicited once per year for projects worth up to $40,000. The Annual Program will serve as the primary vehicle through which Penn Global will allocate GEF funds. Eligible applicants can also apply for funding at any time during the year via our GEF Investigator-Initiated Program.

Timeline
Global Engagement Fund Annual Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call for Proposals Released</td>
<td>January 25, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals Due</td>
<td>March 14, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announced</td>
<td>May 2, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GEF Investigator Initiated Program*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Acceptance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Inquiry</td>
<td>Accepted year-round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Once submitted, letters of inquiry take up to four weeks to review. If the letter of inquiry is approved, the principal investigator will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Grant Term
The grant term is limited to one year. Larger multi-year initiatives will be considered (up to two years maximum). Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.

Budget
Grants are not to exceed $40,000. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Matching Funds
Although not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to include additional funding contributed by a School, Center, or external partner (including foundations, governmental organizations, etc.).
GEF Funding Criteria

All proposals to the Global Engagement Fund will be reviewed on a timely basis by the Penn Global team and members of a standing committee of reviewers drawn from the University community. After considering the proposal and feedback from reviewers, Penn Global will make all final decisions regarding the dispersal of grants from the Global Engagement Fund.

All proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

☐ **Does your project align with the GEF Funding Priorities?**
  - Is the proposed project a creative and innovative global engagement that has the potential to generate new knowledge or bring to light key global issues?
  - Will the proposed project involve interdisciplinary work and help strengthen connections between different departments, schools, centers, and faculty around the University?
  - Does the proposed project significantly advance the University’s interests in a particular field of study and/or region of the world?

☐ **Is your project eligible to receive funding?**
  The GEF provides the following types of support:
  - Research and Academic Collaborations
  - Faculty and Student Collaborations
  - Exchange Programs
  - Distinguished Scholar Support
  - Cross-collaborative Symposia, Conferences, and Workshops
  - Seed Funding for New Project Development

☐ **Is the principal investigator eligible to receive funding?**
  Penn faculty and senior administrators are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to those who are full-time, non-tenured professors.

☐ **Does your project provide strong evidence of matching funds and/or plan for matching funds?**
  Although not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to include additional funding contributed by a School, Center, or external partner (including foundations, governmental organizations, etc.).

---

4 Penn Global will assemble a standing committee of 15-20 faculty members and staff to help review proposals. The committee will consist of a wide range of subject matter experts, regional experts, and individuals with experience preparing and reviewing grants.