

## **Request for Proposals**

### **Graham Undergraduate Sustainability Scholars Program**

### **Course Offering**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Graham Institute has worked with several schools and colleges to create an Undergraduate Sustainability Scholars Program (USSP) with the first cohort beginning in Fall 2010. This program will promote multi-disciplinary studies in sustainability and will engage upper division undergraduate students from multiple academic units. Students may apply from any U-M academic unit and will be admitted to the program at the end of their sophomore year and participate over the remainder of their undergraduate studies. The program requires participation in a place-based course that investigates a sustainability issue in depth, preferably with an international context. For such courses, the Graham Institute will provide resources to faculty and students to facilitate travel to and work at the field site. Previous courses supported under this program are described at the website <http://www.graham.umich.edu/education/undergrad-scholars.php>. This request is for developing and offering additional courses to be available through the USSP. It is anticipated that a successful course will be supported for two years, with the possibility for renewal.

This course is expected to provide top undergraduate students throughout U-M the opportunity to investigate natural, social, economic, political, and technological aspects of a sustainability issue and to provide an in-depth analysis of approaches to the resolution of the problem. Proposals may be submitted by any member or interdisciplinary team from the instructional staff of U-M. In addition to new courses, we will consider existing courses for adaptation to the USSP format. Enrollment in the course need not be restricted to participants in the USSP, but preference must be given for their participation. Any student enrolled in the course who has not been accepted into the USSP is not eligible to receive funding support from the Graham Institute.

Course proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. A successful proposal must show that the course content focuses on an important sustainability issue and uses a strong multi-disciplinary approach. The course must also include extended field-based work to provide context for the course material. Although there is a preference for a course with an international context, domestic field courses will also be considered. Different models for course structure will be considered. For example, the course could be of short duration during the spring/summer period with most activities occurring on site, or it could be a semester-long course with an extended site visit during spring break or following the end of the academic semester.

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The Graham Institute will provide financial support for offered courses. This support is intended to cover participant travel costs to the field site, accommodations and local travel expenses, as well as course development costs, as appropriate. Student travel expenses will be covered through a financial credit that each Scholar will be allocated for this purpose. Course enrollment may be limited by budgetary constraints.

## PROPOSAL CONTENT

1. Cover Page with the following information
  - a. Course Title
  - b. Instructor(s) (including names, titles, appointment(s) and email addresses)
  - c. Contact information of lead instructor
  
2. Course Description

The Course Description must provide a concise description of the proposed course content, including:

  - a. Statement of content, objectives, and expected outcomes of proposed course
  - b. Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed course, and how it provides unique, significant educational opportunities to upper-division undergraduate students from multiple disciplines
  - c. Description of the field site and how it will be used as the basis of the team projects for enrolled students
  
3. Letter of Support from home unit of proposed faculty

Letter(s) of support from academic units must indicate acknowledgement of the proposed instructional activity.
  
4. Letters of Support from Collaborators

Where relevant, the proposals must include documentation from the field site sponsor indicating their support for the course and the extent of their participation in the course activity. Financial support from the collaborator is encouraged, but not required.
  
5. Budget

If funds are requested for course development, an explicit description of what the funds will be used for and why these resources are needed must be included. Other costs associated with the delivery of the course should be identified in a budget. The final course budget will be established in consultation with Graham Institute staff once the course offering has been accepted.
  
6. CVs

Brief, i.e., no longer than 2 pages each for all course instructors.

## PROJECT DELIVERABLES

A report presenting course outcomes is due upon completion of the course. This report will be compiled and disseminated via posting on the Graham Institute web portal. Course instructors may also be requested to present course results at a meeting of the Graham Institute External Advisory Board.

## QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the details of course proposal preparation should be directed to Professor Steven J. Wright (sjwright@umich.edu), Faculty Director for Education