

PROGRAM OVERVIEW Internationalization at Home in Science Education (i@home)

SPRING 2016 - ROUND OF FUNDING

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Alberta believes it is essential for Albertans to acquire the skills, knowledge and competencies to live and work in an increasingly global context. The internationalization of Alberta's post-secondary education system is central to this goal and to positioning Alberta as a global leader.

Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education (the Ministry) continues to take a comprehensive approach to international education. One focus area for the Ministry is to create opportunities for Albertan post-secondary students to grow their international competence and to develop international experience through academic and professional development opportunities both at home and abroad.

Support for education abroad has grown in recent years, however, the Ministry recognizes that only 7% of Albertan post-secondary students reported an international education opportunity while completing a college or university program. With efforts underway by institutions and government to improve student participation in learning experiences abroad, the Ministry recognizes that other initiatives are needed to engage non-mobile learners in international education at home.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The *Internationalization at Home Initiative in Science Education (i@home)* program is a two year pilot program that will provide 20 grants to the amount of \$6,500 to professors and instructors in science faculties at Alberta's post-secondary institutions to explore and pilot new approaches to internationalizing their classrooms, science curriculum, and students.

This pilot program is intended as a proof of concept and will inform future plans.

Institutions

The *i@home* grant is available to Campus Alberta's 25 publicly-funded, accredited, and degree/diploma granting PSI. (See Appendix A)

Student Experience

Professors and instructors explore new ways of internationalizing course content and learning experience for Alberta students through existing or new partnerships with institutions, professors and students in a partner country.

Potential International Partners

The grant encourages the creation of new connections and strengthening of existing relationships between Campus Alberta and partner institutions in priority countries for Alberta, as identified by the Ministry. Priority countries for 2015 include Mexico, India, Brazil, Vietnam, China, Turkey, Germany, and France.

Project Guidelines

Professors and instructors of science at Campus Alberta post-secondary institutions will be asked to submit applications for funding to support the piloting of **new internationalization initiatives within the applicant's curriculum, method of course delivery and/or support for faculty members.**

- Projects must be new initiatives and cannot duplicate or mirror existing activities already taking place within the science faculty.
- Professors and instructors must work with an international partner to develop and deliver jointly one or more of the following:
 - lectures
 - assignments
 - shared curriculum
 - and/or class projects.
- Funding must enable at least 10 Alberta students to engage and learn alongside international peers.
- Successful recipients will be required to conduct evaluations of students' international skills/competencies both before and after the initiative. These evaluations will enable the assessment of the initiative's impact on students, faculty persons and the institution. Currently, an online assessment tool for this program is being developed by the *i@home* Working Group.

Funding

The Ministry will award up to 20 grants of \$6500 CDN per recipient or a total of \$130,000 in 2015 and 2016. Recipients may use grant funding as follows:

- Up to \$2,000 for travel costs incurred by the professor or instructor or as compensation for time spent by the professor in developing the internationalization initiative
- Up to \$6,500 for the delivery of the initiative (e.g., materials, technology, and/or support staff)
- Initiative must be delivered and funding expended by December 31, 2016.
- If project is not delivered, all funding must be refunded to the Ministry.
- To ensure broad Campus Alberta participation, no more than TWO projects will be selected and funded per Campus Alberta institution.

Funding cannot be used to support student travel.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Ministry will accept applications for the *i@home* grant as required in 2015 and 2016. Subsequent deadlines will be announced as required.

- Applications for funding are to be prepared by the applying professor, instructor or program administrator.
- Applications are to be submitted to the designated institutional representative (DIR) of the applying institution by the required internal institutional deadline (prior to the Ministry's deadline). See *i@home* application form for additional details.
- The DIR is responsible for ensuring the internal review of institutional application forms and ranking each submission against the program guidelines, the quality of the application, and the institution's internationalization strategies.
- The DIR then submits all applications to the Ministry by the deadline.
- Selected projects will be asked to provide additional project details and timelines. Funding will be released pending receipt of additional details.

The *i@home* selection committee will review submitted applications and select one or two projects per Campus Alberta institution. The Ministry will send a decision on funding approval to the institution's DIR within three weeks of the deadline.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within six weeks of completion of the approved international education experience, the institutional recipient is required to provide the Ministry with a report summarizing each funded program/course. The report must include:

- Overview of program activities
- Including partner information
- Total number of students enrolled in the program
- Completion of program assessment tool
- Financial statement of program expenditures (including signed confirmation by a financial officer that grant funds were used for their intended purpose)
- Photos, student presentations or other documents of program outcomes (optional)

SUPPORTING GROUPS

The *i@home* working group will comprise:

- Representative(s) from the Ministry
- Representative(s) from MacEwan University
- Representative(s) from any other interested Campus Alberta post-secondary institutions

The *i@home* selection committee will comprise:

- Representative(s) from the Ministry
- Representative(s) from MacEwan University
- Representative(s) from any other interested Campus Alberta post-secondary institutions

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Alberta Students

- Enhance global awareness, improve intercultural communication skills and acquire broader perspectives.
- Increase information and develop new approaches to key issues in science through contact and collaborative work with science students from other educational systems and countries
- Experience personal growth (defined as the process of doing something beyond their usual comfort zone to enhance interpersonal skills, increase consciousness, and expand cultural sensitivity)
- Share experience, expertise, and perspectives on science issues with international peers

Campus Alberta institutions, faculties, and professors and instructors:

- Profile Alberta's science expertise by working with international partners
- Internationalize Alberta's science curriculum to encourage increased understanding of international perspectives on important science problems and topics
- Extend Campus Alberta experiences through engaging with international partners
- Build networks and relationships between Alberta and international partners

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources on intercultural learning, competences, and assessment can be found at the program website: www.iae.alberta.ca/iathome

PARTICIPATING CAMPUS ALBERTA INSTITUTIONS

Alberta College of Art & Design · Ambrose University · Athabasca University · Bow Valley College · Burman University · Concordia University of Edmonton · Grande Prairie Regional College · MacEwan University · Keyano College · Lakeland College · Lethbridge College · Medicine Hat College · Mount Royal University · NorQuest College · Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) · Northern Lakes College · Olds College · Portage College · Red Deer College · SAIT Polytechnic · St. Mary's University · The King's University · University of Alberta · University of Calgary · University of Lethbridge

For further information, visit the *i@home* website

www.iae.alberta.ca/iathome

or contact

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