Overview

The University of South Alabama is partnering with the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito via their joint Galapagos Science Center to establish collaborative relationships that will provide opportunities for USA students and faculty.

Awards for travel to the Galapagos will provide up to $3,000. The travel funds will be used to begin preliminary research, create new student opportunities or pursue other collaborations.

Eligibility

ELIGIBLE: Applicants for these travel funds must be USA Employees.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: The applicant’s dean or department chair must provide a portion of the funding.

Applicants should have an initial communication with an individual at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the Universidad San Francisco de Quito or at the Galapagos Science Center prior to requesting travel funds. The USA Office of Research and Economic Development, the Provost’s Office, or the President’s Office can help with contacts at these organizations.

All travel expenses must be incurred in accordance with USA’s Travel and Entertainment regulations, including the Fly America Act.

Research projects must adhere (as applicable) to USA requirements concerning Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animal Use. Prior to submitting an application, Investigators should review the Ecuadorian government’s guidelines for field research via the Galapagos National Park websites. Marine and terrestrial research must receive Park Service permits. This will be handled by the Galapagos Science Center but must be received no later than October 1 - that is why the USA internal deadline is September 20.

A final report will be required no later than five months following the travel.
**How to Apply**

Applicants should submit a request for funding proposal that includes:

1) a description of the project, including the approaches, expected outcomes and a plan for developing a future research proposal for submission to external funding agencies (maximum of three pages), and
2) the applicant’s CV.

Proposal elements should be combined into a single PDF file and submitted through InfoReady at http://bit.ly/galapagosapp

In InfoReady applicants will also need to indicate whether their department chair or college dean has agreed to cover a portion of the travel costs; and they will also need to provide the name and institution of their collaborator.

**Deadlines**

In order to assure receipt of permitting, all proposals for travel to carry out specific research must be received by September 15. There is no deadline for other travel requests, and applications will be accepted continuously.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Each request for funding will be evaluated based upon:

a) the quality of the proposed project;
b) the development of a strategy to secure external funding, if appropriate; and
c) the record of achievement of the applicant given the applicant’s career stage.

*The Office of Research Development and Learning may contact awardees for additional, ad hoc progress updates for up to three (3) years following submission of the final progress report. The information may be used to highlight projects and/or to comprehensively assess the effectiveness of the program.*