November 15, 2016

TO: CALS Graduate Students, International Faculty, Department Chairs and Directors of Graduate Studies

FROM: International Programs (IP/CALS)

RE: Graduate Student Supplemental Research Support Program

For the 30th year, the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca is providing funding to help alleviate hunger in developing countries. IP/CALS has been asked to make this information and opportunity available to faculty and graduate students. The funds will provide supplemental financial support to several international graduate students whose thesis research deals with a hunger-related topic in his/her country. In the broadest sense, topics can range from environment and natural resources issues to nutrition or water quality. The main goal is, in some way, to address the problems related to world hunger. Selected proposals will receive a modest grant that can be used for expenses related to the research project.

A description of the Student Field Research Support Program is below. In addition to information about this program, application forms can be found on our website: http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/ or at the IP/CALS main office in B75 Mann Library.

Funds will be available beginning with the 2017 summer period. Applications must be received by Wednesday, February 1, 2017, and must be typed. The student's major professor must provide a letter indicating his/her evaluation of the student and the research proposal. Interviews will be held at the Church on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

For additional information about this program, please contact any one of the following: Denise Percey (dmp3@cornell.edu) or Christina Mead (christina.mead@gmail.com), Co-Chair of the Church’s International Hunger Committee.
The First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca has created a mission fund to help in alleviating hunger in developing countries. Beginning in 1985, a group of Presbyterians interested in world hunger and food problems met on several occasions to consider ways the local church might help in a modest way to address the issues of world hunger. From these discussions, a student aid mission program was initiated and an amount for this purpose included in the Church's 1987 budget. It was continued in subsequent budgets. This is the thirtieth year of the program. To date more than 90 Cornell graduate students from 30 different countries have received grants from the First Presbyterian International Hunger Student Field Support Program.

Purpose and Operation of the Program

The primary purpose of the program is to provide supplemental research funding for international graduate students whose work shows significant promise to address hunger. The funds are to be used in some phase of field research in the student’s home country. For example, funds may be used for additional technical assistance, equipment, local travel, or other needed resources to implement the thesis research. Please note that funds are not ordinarily awarded for international travel. A second purpose of the grant program is to involve and educate church members on a country’s hunger issues. As a condition of receiving the grants, students must make a presentation to members of the church about their research and how it will address hunger in their country. Grants awarded range from $500 to $2,000.

The International Hunger Committee of the Church reviews the applications, conducts interviews, and selects those to receive grants. This committee works closely with the Senior Associate Director of International Programs at Cornell. The IP/CALS Office will serve as the center for identification of students who might be eligible for this financial aid. Applications are due on February 1, 2017. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

Announcements of this program are being distributed by the IP/CALS office to the appropriate Cornell faculty and offices. IP/CALS will provide, upon request, additional application forms and will receive the completed forms. The funds will be paid by the Church directly to the student(s).

Criteria for Student Eligibility

1. Committed to returning to his/her country to work on food and hunger problems.
2. Enrolled in a field of study at Cornell that is likely to contribute to hunger alleviation (i.e. agricultural production, nutrition, education, communications, food policies, environment and natural resources, water resources).
3. Enrolled in the second or third year of a PhD program.
4. Has plans for doing thesis research in the home country and in cooperation with others working on hunger problems in the area.
5. Present a project plan, including budget that shows how the funds will be used.
6. Willing to share plans and experiences with the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, as described below.

Report of Research Program

Awards will be presented during the church service on May 7, 2017. We ask that grant recipients set aside time from 10:00 to 11:30 on that morning to attend the service, accept the award, and meet members of the congregation during a short fellowship time after the service.

Upon completion of the project, the church committee will expect to receive a one or two page summary describing the student's field research experiences and an appraisal of the likely impact of his/her results on food and hunger problems. In addition, grant recipients are expected to make a presentation to church members during the church’s adult education time, from 11:30 to 12:30 on a Sunday.

International Hunger - Student Field Support Program
Sponsored by
First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, New York
2017 Grant Application Form

Biographical Data

Name __________________________ Home Country ____________________________
Email Address: __________________

Campus Address: _______________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________

Ithaca Address: _________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________

Home Country Address: __________________________________________________

Major and Minor Fields of Graduate Study: ________________________________

Graduate Committee Chairperson: ________________________________
Other Members of Graduate Committee: ________________________________
Degree & Expected Completion Date: ________________________________

Your Graduate Study at Cornell

1. Describe briefly your graduate program at Cornell.
   a. What is the major focus of your studies?
   b. What is the title and major thrust of your thesis project?

2. How do you think your research and/or extension interest may help in alleviating the food and hunger problems in your country and the world?

3. Outline your professional objectives after you complete your graduate studies. Do you have a job to go back to in your country?

4. With whom have you discussed the plan for which you are requesting funds (i.e. your Chairman, a professor who has worked in your country, etc.)?

Request for Financial Support

1. For what specific purpose(s) are you requesting supplementary funds? Describe how the funds will enhance your research work.

2. How much supplemental financing do you need? For exactly what will the money be used? On a separate sheet, summarize your total budget and show sources of funds.

3. How will your research be related to or coordinated with that of others working on food and hunger problems in your country or region (i.e. state how it will be a part of the ongoing research at a college or research stations, etc.)?

4. When will you return to your home country to conduct the research? Give the approximate dates you will likely be gone from Ithaca as well as your return date.

5. Please include a permanent mailing address or e-mail for communication purposes:

6. Have you recently received other grants? Yes___ NO___
   If so, please provide details:
7. Ask your Committee Chairperson to write a letter of evaluation and support for your proposal. The letter should be sent to Denise Percey, International Programs, B75 Mann Library or via email; dmp3@cornell.edu.

Date submitted:_________________ Signature: ________________________________

Return to International Programs/CALS, Attn: Denise Percey, B75 Mann Library by February 1, 2017 or via email; dmp3@cornell.edu.