



Academia in the Public Sphere: Islam and Muslims in World Contexts
A Small Grants Program

The SSRC is pleased to announce a grants program to support public engagement on the subject of Islam and Muslims in world contexts. These grants are available to all Title VI funded National Resource Centers (NRCs) on U.S. campuses. The program aims to develop infrastructure and successful strategies permitting the dissemination of academic research on Islamic societies and regions to targeted constituencies, including the general public, media, and policy institutions.

Current Title VI NRC recipients on U.S. campuses are eligible to apply individually for grants up to \$50,000 to be used over a period of fifteen months. Extraordinary projects involving multiple NRCs may be considered for grants up to \$100,000.

The grants are available to projects that effect change by creating new or enhancing existing engagement capacities on university campuses. Additionally, grants are available to projects that draw faculty into processes of public engagement by developing new forums and activities that promote better public understanding of the diversity of Muslim societies and communities across all geographical regions. Partnerships and engagement with media, business communities, policy institutions, advocacy groups, and the general public are encouraged. Funds, however, cannot be used for outreach to K-12 education.

Activities to be proposed by applicant centers may include (but are not limited to) one or more of the following:

- Enhancing the public visibility of individual university faculty and researchers (including graduate students) through media appearances or other forms of engagement with print and broadcast journalists. These may include activities promoting sustainable partnerships between academics and journalism schools. The activities may also include the hiring of op-ed specialists to work with and train scholars and graduate students, or the development of communication training workshops run by media specialists.
- Training scholars to enhance their capacity to communicate beyond scholarly circles. These could include internships with think tanks or advocacy groups, workshops focusing on a particular theme which encourages the development of scholarship as a public resource, or the creation of taskforces for targeted engagement with media, policy and advocacy groups.
- Development of materials supporting engagement with different constituencies, including handbooks, directories, contact lists, mailing lists, databases and checklists to strengthen individual and institutional capacity for engagement.
- Development of public forums for the purpose of disseminating academic knowledge on the history, culture, intellectual traditions, contributions to global culture, civilization and thought and the contemporary politics of Muslim societies and communities. These forums also might promote sustainable partnerships between academics and advocacy groups, cultural institutions, or policymakers.

Applications materials should be submitted by the NRC director, or an appropriate PI, and must include the following:

- A cover sheet containing basic information on the proposal and submitting center(s)
- A 5-8 page narrative proposal including information on the following: the proposed project activities; potential impact of the activities on the targeted audiences; expected returns of these activities for the center(s); expectations concerning the sustainability of engagement beyond the grant period; a dissemination plan for any products resulting from the activities
- Appendices elaborating on information provided in the narrative proposal
- A proposed budget using the form provided on the website
- CVs (1-2 pages) of relevant personnel
- A letter of support from the university administrator to whom the applicant center or applicant unit reports

The grant period spans 15 months: from March 15, 2009 to June 14, 2010. Grant funds can be used for honoraria, travel, meeting expenses, acquisition and preparation of materials for dissemination, web development, and costs associated with media appearances, communications training and consultations with experts. Limited staff salary can also be covered but should not exceed 15% of the overall budget. A midterm and final report would be required describing the impact and additional long-term plans resulting from the activities supported by the grant. Applications are available online. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the [online materials](#) and [contact SSRC staff](#) in advance of submitting a proposal.

Deadlines:

Applications due – November 17, 2008

Decisions announced – January 9, 2009

Grant period commences – March 15, 2009

Grant period concludes – June 14, 2010

For inquiries contact [Thomas Asher](#), Program Officer
http://www.ssrc.org/program_areas/global/public_scholarship/

Note: This program is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Department of Education Title VI program, dedicated to international education and public education, in order to complement existing federal funding.