

China Urbanization Research Proposal Competition

Background: Since its creation in 2009, the Program on Chinese Cities (PCC) has had great success in establishing partnerships with Chinese colleagues by hosting over ninety visiting scholars from more than twenty different universities in China, including twenty scholars who are currently on campus. The Program has developed the UNC-PKU Consortium for Urban and Regional Planning and Management, the agreement with the College of Economics at Harbin Institute of Technology, and the agreement with Eco-forum organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Development (MOHURD) of China. The PCC has also helped develop four joint conferences of UNC and Chinese scholars. It has translated numerous articles and publications from English into Mandarin. The PCC continues to grow and the next stage in its development is more fully developing a research agenda with our Chinese partners.

Program Description: The Program on Chinese Cities Research Proposal Competition is designed to encourage faculty members at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct research on Chinese cities. This competitive program provides \$20,000 for a course buy-out (plus benefits) to enable a faculty member to develop a large research proposal focusing on an issue relevant to urbanization in China. Alternatively, the \$20,000 could also be used to fund travel, summer salary, student research support, purchasing data, or other expenses related to completing a pilot study and developing a grant proposal. The research proposal must run through the Center for Urban and Regional Studies and be submitted to a funding agency within one year from the starting date of the award. The funds must be expended in the 2014/2015 academic year. Beyond developing a proposal, the winner is expected to do a presentation on his or her proposed and/or ongoing research within a year of the award, and to serve on the selection committee for the next competition. If faculty members are interested in establishing a partnership with scholars in China in pursuing the grant proposal, PCC will be able to assist.

Eligibility: This program is made possible by generous support from the Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost's Office. This call for proposals is open to all faculty at UNC-CH. Applicants must have the approval of their home department.

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of UNC-CH faculty and staff. This committee will make its selection based on the following criteria:

- the quality of the research idea;
- the applicant's preparation to conduct the proposed research, including the identification of potential funders;
- the likelihood of the proposal being funded, and the amount of the anticipated request from extramural sources and likelihood of success; and
- if applicable, the quality of proposed partnership with scholars in China.

There is funding to support one award the upcoming academic year. **The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2014.**

Application: Applications are available on the CURS website (<http://curs.unc.edu/>) or by contacting Todd Owen at 962-3076. Interested faculty members must complete a short application of no more than two pages that provides:

1. The nature of the research project the applicant plans to develop,
2. The applicant's unique qualifications for conducting the research,
3. Other members of the project team (if known),
4. The targeted funding agency(ies) (if known),
5. The anticipated amount of the request to an external funder, and
6. The agreement by the department chair to release the applicant from a course, if successful.