

School of Graduate Studies

Principles for Proposing, Reviewing & Approving International Exchange Agreements Approved by Executive Council, September 25, 2017

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) seeks to foster international exchanges and collaborations between its graduate students and their counterparts across the world. The format of these relationships can vary: short (a few weeks or months) or longer term (up to a year) visits to take or audit courses, work with a faculty member, or take advantage of other unique resources at Rutgers or elsewhere; support for full time completion of a degree (masters or doctorate) by an international student at Rutgers; or support for extended study (over one year) by a Rutgers student at a university located overseas.

Most of these agreements request or require financial commitments from the School of Graduate Studies in the form of full or partial tuition remission and health insurance. In general:

- 1) SGS will only provide such financial assistance if it is required by the partner institution of all participating institutions according to published guidelines;
- 2) SGS may provide up to 100% tuition remission for a doctoral student and up to 50% tuition remission for a masters student.
- 3) SGS will manage the cost of the health insurance for the fellow (not any dependents), unless the sponsoring agency provides earmarked funding for such purpose.

Given the many requests we receive and our limited funds, we have developed the following principles to guide our review and approval of such requests:

- 1) We will continue to endorse major exchange programs operated by foreign states or established foundations that support graduate education for international students at Rutgers in a range of our graduate programs. Examples include Fulbright, Open Society Institute, Chinese Scholarship Council, and Vietnam Education Foundation.
- 2) Other requests will be assessed and ranked according to the following preferences:
 - A. Proposals that support the education of students from (or to) underrepresented countries or regions like sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and Latin America;
 - B. Proposals that include a broad range of graduate programs;
 - C. Proposals from graduate programs that do not already participate in one or more such exchanges;

D. Proposals that support the reciprocal exchange of people and resources, whereby Rutgers students will be able to benefit as much as international students from the agreement;

E. Proposals for the support of doctoral students;

F. Proposals in which SGS financial support for tuition remission is matched by the graduate program, grant funding, other school (such as SAS, SEBS, SOE, GSE, etc.), or other resources.

All requests to SGS to support the establishment or renewal of an international agreement must include the following:

1) A completed draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on the template available from GAIA or SGS;

2) A memo justifying the exchange according to the intellectual benefit to the students and program and, if relevant, the preferences outlined in #2 (above). The memo should also outline important details such as relevant graduate program(s), number of students, requested financial support from SGS, proposed timeline, and processes for reviewing applications.

3) If the request is for a renewal, a memo that assesses the effectiveness, benefits, and cost of the prior agreement and describes any changes in the new agreement based on that assessment.

We encourage interested programs to contact us to discuss their proposed agreements well in advance of any deadlines.