



PENN INSTITUTE *for* **URBAN RESEARCH**

Request For Proposal
Penn IUR Undergraduate Urban Research Course
CPLN 528/URBS 428
Spring 2008, Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 pm

EXTENDED Proposal Due Date: November 2, 2007
NEW DATE -- Notification of Awards: November 9, 2007
Commencement of funds: Prior to first class on January 16, 2008
Point of Contact: Kendra Goldbas, Associate Director
E-mail: kendrag@pobox.upenn.edu

Penn IUR Overview: The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is a university-wide body that builds on Penn's record as an urban institution to advance urban scholarship, develop methodical tools for urban research, and apply research to instruction and public policy. Penn IUR enhances urban-focused knowledge through a commitment to cities on a local and global scale and through its mission to advance sustainable urban growth and development in order to have a positive impact on urban decision-making and public policy. Penn IUR believes that place matters in understanding urban phenomena and that spatially-based approaches are essential to identifying urban challenges, strategies and solutions.

In providing an umbrella for urban-focused scholarship across the University's twelve schools, Penn IUR sponsors a number of initiatives, stimulates research, provides opportunities for collaborative instruction, and engages with the world of practitioners and policymakers.

Course Overview: The Undergraduate Urban Research Course (UURC) facilitates faculty-mentored, undergraduate urban-focused research. The program includes support for a joint faculty-student research project and a semester-long, credit-bearing seminar. The UURC invites the participation of faculty from across the 12 schools to undertake research on a wide range of urban issues. Students from each of the University's undergraduate schools (Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Science, Nursing and Wharton) are



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eligible to participate. The program will sponsor up to 10 projects. Grant funds will be provided for faculty to support new and/or existing research efforts.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- All standing faculty and adjunct, practice or clinical professors in all schools are eligible.
- Students must be in the spring semester of their sophomore or junior year.
- Faculty must identify enrolling student as part of grant application, facilitate and supervise student research and participate in joint faculty-student presentations throughout the semester.
- Research projects must be urban-focused and can be drawn from a range of disciplines including Anthropology, Art History, City Planning, Community and Urban Health, Community Development, Cultural Studies, Demographics, Design, Education, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Finance, Fine Arts, Geography, Governance, History, Historic Preservation, Housing, Humanities, Immigration, Infrastructure, Landscape Studies, Law, Management, Medicine, Metropolitan and Regional Studies, Natural and Applied Sciences, Poverty, Public Policy, Real Estate, Social Work, Sociology, Transportation and Urban Studies.

Course Format: Weekly seminar attendance by students is mandatory. Faculty are expected to attend and participate in *four* sessions: the first class (January 8) and three subsequent sessions in which they will co-present their projects. At the first of these sessions they will present the context for their research question, at the second they will support their respective students in presenting their research design and at the last session they will support student presentations of findings and implications. Faculty-student presentations will be approximately 45 minutes in length. In addition to seminar attendance, faculty members will be required to meet with students no less than three times during the course of the semester.

Grant Support: Grants (up to \$2,000) will be available to support faculty-student research projects. However, grants may *not* be used for direct faculty or student compensation during the period of the course (but may be used for a student stipend during on-going summer research).



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Application: Applications for the UURC grant program should not exceed two pages in length and should include:

- *Research Project Description:* An outline of the topic/research area and its relevance/connection to urban-focused issues. This outline should include the questions the research seeks to address, the methodology to be employed, the research gap that is filled, and how the proposed research expands existing knowledge within the discipline.
- *Student Participation:* Provide the name, year and school of the student.
- *Detailed Project Budget:* Outline use of funds in the following categories: research materials, transportation/fieldwork, summer student stipend and other appropriate expenses.

The applications should be submitted electronically to kendrag@pobox.upenn.edu by November 2, 2007.

Final Deliverables: The final products of each UURC grant will be a full report outlining research activities and outcomes as well as a 1-page summary of the research project.