

University of Birmingham
Transatlantic Collaboration Fund - Midwest

Background

The University of Birmingham's US engagement strategy is focussed on developing a strategic regional presence across a number of institutions in Chicago and the Midwest. Over the last three years considerable progress has been made in scoping and building relationships with universities, cultural partners and external bodies such as the British Consulate Chicago and UKTI.

Our most wide-ranging research links exist with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and over the last year a series of institutional and academic visits have identified the potential for a broader working relationship.

Over the next two years we are looking to grow our academic links with UIUC with a view to establishing critical mass from which a wider strategic relationship may develop. A joint Illinois-Birmingham cross-College workshop is planned for Spring (likely May) 2013 as a platform to showcase the strength of existing relationships, build cognate research areas, encourage wider faculty engagement and create aspirations for institutional engagement.

Alongside this we will continue to support the development of academic relationships that have the potential to deliver research results, educational exchange opportunities and public impact as we build our strategic regional presence in the greater Chicago area.

Criteria

The Transatlantic Collaboration Fund has been set up to support UoB's strategic Midwest engagement, with the following priorities:

- a. To resource the attendance of key academic leads at the Illinois-Birmingham showcase workshop in May 2013.**
Colleagues with established relationships at UIUC, who are key to demonstrating the strength of existing activities, will be invited to participate.
- b. To encourage wider faculty involvement and create aspirations for institutional engagement.**
We invite funding applications from colleagues interested in developing new research/educational relationships with counterparts at UIUC. Priority will be given to:

 - Projects that coincide with or support the aims of the showcase workshop and demonstrate potential for a broader strategic relationship.
 - Projects that can clearly demonstrate that they have established a potential area of collaboration with UIUC counterparts.
 - Activities with the potential to extend beyond individual links to wider – i.e. 'research group to research group' – collaborations.
- c. To support the development of faculty-faculty relationships in the Greater Chicago area leading to clearly defined outputs.**
Priority will be given to relationships that have the potential to: progress College research priorities; connect our academics to world-leading researchers; enhance our institutional research profile through collaborative publications; build productive, impactful relationships with leading academic, scientific, cultural and policy communities in the region; and provide distinctive educational opportunities for our students.

Guidelines

There are no restrictions on the forms of activity undertaken with Transatlantic Collaboration Funding, providing it meets one of the criteria outlined above. The fund is available to support visits to the greater Chicago area for the purpose of developing collaborations with Chicago institutions/organisations and UIUC. The fund may also support visits by individuals from the region's institutions to UoB where these may help develop collaboration. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic projects to extend US academic networks and research outputs, joint conferences, workshops, collaborative experiments and co-authored publications;
- Curriculum innovation and development of joint teaching and learning initiatives;
- Partnership development to provide transatlantic mobility and internship opportunities to ensure the distinctiveness of our high quality student experience
- Civic and cultural relationship-building to enhance our status as an 'engaged' university.

Applications that can demonstrate the potential for relationships to become sustainable beyond the proposed project and initial seed-corn funding are particularly encouraged.

Application Process

Submit a one page proposal outlining the following key information:

- a) Purpose and timescale of visit/programme activity.
- b) Who will be involved in the activity (from UoB and partner institutions)?
- c) Academic rationale for support: How does the proposal relate to the University's strategic interests in developing relationships with UIUC or institutions in the Greater Chicago region?
- d) What are the anticipated outcomes and benefits for UoB's engagement in the US?
- e) What is the anticipated total cost and budget breakdown for the activity?
- f) What funding is available from other sources?
- g) Head of College approval. Email confirmation of this support will suffice, and should be forwarded with the application.

Applications should be made by email to the International Development Manager, North America, Dr Erica Arthur. There is no application form. The email should be sent to the International Development Administrator in International Relations, Louise Kemp, at l.kemp@bham.ac.uk

Successful applicants will be asked to write a short report within 2 weeks of the visit or activity for which the award was made, and will be invited to present at the Chicago Steering Group. The report should be sent to Louise Kemp at the address above. Reports may be presented at the next meeting of the International Board, which will have overall oversight of the Fund.

The deadline for applications to be received is: **Friday 25th January 2013.**
Early applications are encouraged.

Further Information

Should further information be required, please contact the International Development Manager for North America, Dr Erica Arthur, at e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk, or on extension 47166.