Texas Tech University

International Research Experience for Students Application

2021 Study Abroad Program to the University of Pretoria, South Africa

southafrica.geosciences.ttu.edu

Please submit this application form and other appropriate materials to:

Dr. Callum J Hetherington

callum.hetherington@ttu.edu

Department of Geosciences
Box 41053
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1053

Program Dates:

12 July to 9 August 2021

Application Deadlines:

Early application for participation in NSF-IRES Sponsored Research Program: 15 February 2021

Study Abroad Scholarship Applications: 15 February 2021

Texas Tech University Study Abroad Application (required): 1 March 2021

Program Requirements and Application Process

All applications for the NSF-IRES program are reviewed by the program leaders (Hetherington, Arif and Martinez). Acceptance to the IRES program is contingent upon review of this application, and of acceptance to the Study Abroad program. Admission and distribution of funding will be based on several metric criteria that include GPA, academic standing, letters of recommendation, and program leaders.

To participate in the NSF-IRES program you must have completed two full semesters of college-level instruction before departure and have a GPA or at least 3.0. If there are extenuating circumstances that are impacting your GPA you may still apply for the program, but you must clearly explain the circumstances that affected your GPA and your efforts to improve your performance since.

Program participants from Texas Tech or another University in Texas are REQUIRED to enroll for credit at Texas Tech University during the program. Other students may enroll at Texas Tech, or at their home institution. Regardless of where a student is enrolled, all participants must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 credit hours and be compliant with TTU Office of International Affairs policies.

We have established a two-step application process. Step 1 is for those seeking admission to the NSF-IRES sponsored research program that will run concurrently with the Study Abroad program.

Step 2 is required for participation in the Study Abroad program. This opportunity is only available to U.S. students or those who hold permanent residency in the U.S. Admission to the IRES program is contingent on enrollment and participation in the joint Study Abroad program (see part 2) between the Departments of Geosciences and Journalism & Creative Media Industries.

Admission to the Study Abroad program will be based on student's applications to the TTU Office of International Affairs Study Abroad program, which is due 1 March 2021. Failure to complete part 2 of the process will invalidate an application to the NSF-IRES program.

All applications of the Study Abroad program will be reviewed and it is essential that all requested documents are submitted by the application deadline, or appropriate justification for their omission is provided. Acceptance to the Study Abroad program will be based on GPA and academic standing, evaluation of responses to application-questions, and, performance and responses provided in an interview with the program leaders. If you are not accepted to the Study Abroad program your deposit will be refunded.

For non-TTU students your application will not be reviewed until we receive a $200 application fee/down payment. This fee will be completely refunded if you withdraw your application prior to being accepted to the program or if you are denied admission. If you are accepted, this application becomes a non-refundable down payment that will cover the TTU Study Abroad International Education application fee. Checks should be enclosed with this application form and made payable to Office of International Affairs, Texas Tech University.

If you are accepted into the NSF-IRES program you will be asked to commit, in writing, your willingness to be included in the NSF sponsored program and agree to meet the eligibility requirements for NSF support. If you are accepted to the Study Abroad program you will receive a link asking you to commit to the program. You will have approximately two weeks to commit; if you fail to do so you will be dropped from the program and your position will be awarded to another qualified student. Once you commit to the program please note that you will be responsible for the full program fee even if you decide to withdraw from the program at a later date. This is a TTU Study Abroad policy that is beyond the control of the NSF-IRES Study Abroad program.

All potential applicants are encouraged to contact program leaders (Callum Hetherington – *Geosciences* – callum.hetherington@ttu.edu; Rauf Arif – *Journalism & Creative Media Industries* – rauf.arif@ttu.edu; TJ Martinez – *Journalism & Creative Media Industries* – tj.martinez@ttu.edu) in advance to discuss the opportunity and expectations for the program.

Completed application forms should be returned in hard-copy or via email to Callum Hetherington using the address/email address provided above.

Non-TTU students are reminded to return this application form and enclose an application fee of $200, in the form of a check made payable to Office of International Affairs, Texas Tech University. The fee will be refunded in full if you withdraw your application or not selected for the program.

For All Students

Name:

How did you hear about this program?

Personal Information

Age:

Gender Male ☐ Female ☐ Intersex ☐ Prefer not to Answer ☐

Citizenship ` **Immigration Status**

Address

Best phone number to reach you

E-mail address:

Academic Information

Classification (based on credit hours completed) (Fe/So/Jr/Sr/G):

Major **Minor (if applicable)**

GPA **Expected semester of Graduation**

Have you ever been on disciplinary probation or scholastic suspension?

In a few sentences describe your academic preparation for this program (examples may include courses in Geosciences, Chemistry, Physics, or Journalism, Creative Media and Communication, international travel experience, under-graduate research experiences or related employment.

Post-High School Education

College/University Attended	From	Until	Degree/Credits Earned	Institution GPA

Fellowships, honors, awards

Do you speak a second language? If so, please explain, including if English is your second language.

Please explain, in a paragraph or two, your motivation for applying to join the NSF-IRES Program at the University of Pretoria and its relevance to your preparation for your hoped for career.

This is an active research program and can be expected to be hard work!

Please answer the following questions regarding your ability to participate in the tasks associated with this NSF-sponsored research.

Question	Answer
Do you understand that fieldwork may be physically taxing and you may be asked to participate in long days (8-10 hours) in rural and remote parts of the world, walking long distances (>5 km), carrying heavy loads (25 lbs)?	
Have you had any allergic reactions to insects, such as ants, bees or wasps, or to pollen or other common allergies, and if so, do you agree to carry appropriate remedies and treatments during the research experience?	
Do you accept and understand that laboratory work, including journalism and creative activities, may be laborious, monotonous and not particularly exciting, and the time commitment required to be successful may not fit into a regular working day – you may be asked to arrive early, and/or stay late to complete tasks.	
This project has a diverse team of collaborators who are involved because of their skills, experience and expertise. Do you agree to take instructions from all research-team leaders and appropriately qualified personnel regardless of the gender, age and ethnicity of that person?	
During all laboratory and fieldwork experiences your personal safety, and the safety of your colleagues is our most important goal. Do you agree to abide by all field and laboratory safety guidelines, and to strive to create a safe working environment?	

Please initial here to indicate that you understand that fulfillment of these conditions to the best of your ability is a requirement for financially benefiting from the NSF award.

Reference Information

Have you, or are you scheduled to have, a course with any of the program leaders (Arif, Hetherington or Martinez)? Pease list the course(s) and semester of enrollment here:

Please provide the name and email address for another Texas Tech Professor who we may contact as a reference on your behalf.

If you are an external student please provide the name and email addresses of two persons who we may contact to provide a reference on your behalf. One of the persons listed must be familiar with your academic performance and potential, and/or your research experiences.

Please add a passport-style photograph of yourself into this box: