



Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 2015

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IRA Funds Request for Pacific Island Resource Management in the Cook Islands

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Sean Anderson
Activity Title	Pacific Island Resource Management in the Cook Islands
Activity/Event Date	June 1-15, 2015
Date Funding Needed By	December 10, 2014
Previously Funded?	No
Semester/Year	—
Proposal #	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	—
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	Clare (Wormald) Steele Jaime Matera
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	ESRM Anthropology
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	\$23,496
Amount Requested from IRA	\$56,904
Estimated Number of Students Participating	20
Conditions and Considerations	Field Trip, International Travel, Risk Management Consultation
Brief Activity Description	We will travel to the South Pacific island nation of the Cook Islands for an intensive, two-week long exploration of the people and ecosystems of the island of Aitutaki. We will travel from Los Angeles to Rarotonga (the Capitol of the Cook Islands) on a commercial passenger jet and on to the Aitutaki via a smaller, short-haul plane. Once on Aitutaki, we will be based out of a large "dorm style" guest house where we will sleep, eat, etc. Our days will emphasize practical exploration of coastal resources and culture, often on/in the water or "off trail." Some of our activities will be designed to support to our local partners and colleagues and their management goals (i.e. Service Learning) while others will be designed to simply help students better understand the extant conditions on Aitutaki. Participants will enjoy a unique opportunity to study and contribute to the conservation of a small island

	<p>nation at the forefront of rising sea levels and modern fisheries management pressures. Example activities include surveying fished populations for Village Councils, documenting coastal vulnerability for the government, etc.</p> <p>Enrollment in our summer trip/course is conditional upon either getting Research SCUBA certified or passing a modest swim test in the Spring. All students are encouraged, but not required, to attend our preparatory Spring seminar built around the history and ecology of the Cook Islands (ESRM 483; enrollees who pass this class will be given preferential enrollment status). All attendees should be in good health and able to undertake strenuous activities on land and underwater. Research SCUBA certification and strong snorkeling/free diving skills are desired, although not mandatory. Students unable to SCUBA dive can participate fully in the class, meeting all learning outcomes and partaking in all aspects of the course</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>This is an upper division course.</p> <p>By completion of this course, students should be able to clearly describe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a basic understanding of the cultural, biographical, and historical underpinnings of modern South Pacific Small Island Nations. 2) current issues most relevant to Cook Islanders. 3) the effects of the recent diaspora on both Cook Islands society and coastal resources. 4) the benefits and downsides of a tourism-based economy in Aitutaki. 5) the current state of reef-based resources in Aitutaki Lagoon. 6) the specific challenges climate change is posing to Aitutaki. 7) the interrelatedness of our global culture, economy, and society. 8) specific management options for improving or maintaining Cook Island resources. <p>At the completion of this course, students will have contributed tangibly to the resource management of the Cook Islands via contributing data, analyses, and report/presentations to our Cook Island partners.</p>
Description of Assessment Process	<p>Students will be required to maintain a daily video journal/vlog. Over the course of the trip, students will be collecting various environmental, behavioral, and/or socioeconomic data related to coastal resources and resource use on Aitutaki which may or may not be featured in their daily entries. Students will complete topic-based reports for our local partners/collaborators (government, NGOs, villages, etc.). At the conclusion of this course, these topic reports (i.e. chapters) will be combined into an overall report compiled and submitted to our Service Learning partners by faculty. In addition, students will complete course assessments and Service Learning assessment instruments.</p> <p>Grading will be assessed as: 40% participation, 20% vlog/journals, 40% reports/data write-ups for our Cook Islands partners.</p> <p>Upon completion of the course, we will also survey our partners for their impressions of the course and possible future improvements.</p>
Activity Budget	CookslIRABudget2015_revSep2014.xlsx
CIA Budget	univ392budgetCookIslands2015_revSep2014.xls
CIA Proposal	univ392CookIslands2015CIAProposal_revisedSept2014.doc
Course Syllabus	CookIslandsSyllabiSpringSummer2015.docx
CIA Certification	I certify that students attending this trip are not previous or repeat attendees of a prior International UNIV 392 Trip
Other Sources of Funding	<p>Currently we have no other source of support. We are, however actively pursuing several funding options (National Geographic, etc.). Our initial intent is to apply for IRA funding for a maximum of two years, at which point we will either terminate the course or have the primary source of funding come from external campus funders.</p> <p>Our proposal to fund the first class trip via CSU COAST seed money was well received, but they felt our ROI wasn't competitive (relative to the kinds of returns they would see from seed money for NSF Grants, etc.) and so did not fund us. We are currently preparing an NSF application that would fund the trip for three years.</p> <p>We are actively partnering with several local Cook Island partners who feel confident we will be able to raise at least moderate funding in the wake of a successful class.</p>
Target Audience/Student Marketing	<p>The course is open to all capable (able to hike moderate distances, swim, etc. in remote locations) and interested students. While not required, we will strongly recommend that participants be research SCUBA certified by the summer of 2015. Those not wishing to SCUBA should be able to snorkel/free dive. While we are planning no high-risk or particularly strenuous aquatic activities, having students meet the higher bar of research SCUBA certification will assure we have well prepared students capable of handling any situations/opportunities in this remote island location. Having said that, the course is open to any undergraduate student from any major. When prioritizing attendees, those who have not yet attended an IRA-sponsored trip or study abroad experience will be given priority. Given the remote nature of this trip, students with significant known medical issues or conditions will be excluded from the candidate pool.</p>
Bring Benefit to Campus	<p>All students will participate in all aspects of our service work while on Aitutaki. Brief, draft reports (most likely PowerPoint-based oral presentations) will be generated prior to our departure and presented to Village Councils, Government Partners, and our other collaborators. Within three weeks of returning to California, the faculty will submit a master report to our Cook Island partners electronically. Both preliminary and final reports will be made available to the campus community.</p> <p>In addition to written reports, each pair of students will be required to submit a 5-10 minute video or narrated slideshow about their service/experience in Aitutaki (likely drawn heavily from their vlog entries). These written reports and videos will be made available to the campus community most likely via a dedicated or class website. (Note: given the likelihood that many of our students may be graduating seniors, a Fall Semester-based poster session or presentation is not realistic for this summer-based experience).</p>
Sustainability	<p>Nothing directly tied to our CI campus.</p> <p>However, as the central theme of the course is promoting sustainable resource management, there are abundant sustainability lessons the students may take away from this experience.</p> <p>Perhaps one important lesson the students may take away is the commitment of CI to dealing with climate change. Here we are formally requesting that CI acknowledge carbon emissions associated with our activities within our budget and in so doing acknowledge offsets are a responsible way to</p>

	both allow for educational experiences. This would be a great first for IRA travel at CI and be a tangible move forward for campus sustainability.
Program Chair/Director	sean.anderson
Academic Affairs AVP	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Approval

Approval	—
Name	—
Date/Time	—
Validation	—

Academic Affairs AVP Approval

Approval	—
Name	—
Date/Time	—
Validation	—