

**Proposal for a Student-Faculty Engagement in Cooperative International Research Program at USFQ**  
***Three-Year Pilot Initiative (2012 – 2015)***

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**Goals of the Program:**

The goals of this three-year initiative to strengthen our relationship between Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Quito, Ecuador) and Coastal Carolina University are:

1. To continue to fulfill the mission of our campus to create global citizens.
2. To encourage students to study abroad and/or experience the world outside of CCU and the United States.
3. To provide quality academic instruction in a global environment.
4. To encourage faculty to broaden their research and teaching beyond CCU and their traditional geographic locales.
5. To develop common programs, initiatives, research, and teaching between our institutions.

**Rationale for the Program:**

The exchange relationship with Universidad San Francisco de Quito has been in place for a decade, during which we have exchanged students both ways and limited faculty mobility has also occurred. The interest generated by the visit of Dr. Diego Quiroga, Vice President of USFQ, in cooperative programming and the response by the CCU Office of the Provost is supportive of this cooperation. In order to encourage deeper faculty and student collaboration with USFQ, we need to create collaborative environments in person, which means sending faculty to USFQ and their Amazon and Galapagos campuses (depending on faculty areas of teaching and research interest). Faculty members at CCU have already begun the informal process of exchanging research ideas with Dr. Quiroga when he came to CCU. The next step is to identify specific faculty to visit USFQ with a detailed plan of meeting USFQ faculty in their discipline and thereby to develop teaching and learning outcomes for future initiatives, programs, classes, study abroad experiences, etc. These faculty exchanges are meant to create links through which long-term benefits to CCU can occur.

**Funding/Support for the Program:**

USFQ has committed to providing student housing for short-term programs, as well as on-the-ground hosting of CCU faculty for short-term visits (e.g., faculty housing, meals, etc.), for which the in-kind value is estimated at \$1,500 per faculty member. Moreover, USFQ has agreed to waive the additional and separate tuition charges for CCU students to study at GAIAS (the research and educational center of USFQ located in the Galapagos) as a part of this program (a value of \$5,000 per student) as this program is opened for 1 slot per semester into the regular tuition exchange program with CCU. CCU's Office of the Provost has agreed to provost a commitment of \$22,500 over a three-year time period for this initiative, with a review at the end of year 2 to evaluate program continuation or modifications needed and subject to continuing funding availability.

**Programming Process:**

Each year, a total of \$7,500 is anticipated to be available for allocation. This amount will be split among 2 research collaborative partnerships that involve a CCU faculty member, a CCU undergraduate student who will study abroad at USFQ in the identified semester or through an organized program, and a USFQ partnering faculty member. The funds available would include: \$2,250 per CCU faculty member to cover costs of travel and on-the-ground expenses (not already covered by USFQ); and \$1,500 for the partnering CCU student to cover the costs of transportation and other on-the-ground costs. Program applications (appended below) are due in the Provost's Office by November 9, 2012 for Spring and Summer (up to June 30) 2013 and on March 15, 2012 for the Fall Semester 2013. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Director of Global Initiatives, Director of International Programs and Provost in the first round, and in all subsequent rounds, this review will include all previous faculty who have received funding through this program. A single program will be supported each semester, unless there were no approved programs for the respective fall semester each year. In this case, up to 2 projects may be supported in the spring/summer following that fall semester. As the goals of this program are to broaden collaboration, applications are welcomed in any of the disciplines at CCU for which reasonable partnerships and broader continuation efforts of cooperation and further development may be reasonably expected (e.g., additional research, cooperative teaching, distance learning cooperation, study abroad programming efforts, etc.). In the initial year of funding (2012-2013), a single exploratory project that does not require a CCU student studying abroad for the semester may be funded.

**CCU Faculty Expectations:**

Faculty project leaders are expected to develop a quality research project for which the undergraduate student may gather, interpret, extend, and or validate data germane to the research project while on their study abroad semester or international program experience at USFQ. CCU faculty leaders are expected to communicate with their counterparts at USFQ effectively to cooperatively deliver value and supervision to the respective student. Faculty leaders are expected to travel to USFQ to coordinate the research project during a mutually agreeable time frame in the semester in which the CCU undergraduate partner is at USFQ. Faculty leaders are expected to provide, with the submission of their documents to complete their Travel Reimbursement Voucher, a short summary about the research project and the on-site engagement and elaboration of further research and/or teaching cooperation possible as a result of the project and on-site interaction with faculty and departments at USFQ.

**CCU Student Researcher Expectations:**

CCU undergraduate student researchers who are a part of this program are expected to develop a clear set of research expectations for the project with their CCU faculty leader. CCU undergraduate student researchers who are a part of this program are expected to organize and complete a study abroad semester or organized program at, to work effectively on their research project, to represent CCU appropriately while in their study abroad role. As a part of this process, each student will be enrolled in a study abroad semester or recognized program at USFQ and will need to seek appropriate approval of other courses to be taken at USFQ to transfer back to CCU. In addition to these courses, each student will enroll in INTL 398 (0 Credits) and will complete all required pre-departure and post-return expectations of this program as a part of the QEP Experienced@Coastal. Each student who is a part of this program will receive a travel stipend of \$1,500. Students agree to provide the Office of International Programs and Services with all required documentation to support these efforts.

### ***Program Summary***

This initiative is designed to assist in the support of a common research project with (an) CCU undergraduate student(s) that will be carried out as an independent study (or supervised research project) in Ecuador, guided by a CCU faculty member and a faculty colleague at USFQ and completed as a part of the CCU undergraduate's study abroad semester(s) or program at USFQ. During the student's time in Ecuador, he/she will work with the USFQ faculty member on this research project as an independent study and will receive QEP experiential learning credit for it. At some point during this academic year, the CCU faculty member will also join the research team to continue the project on ground in Ecuador. This type of organization will give practical, research skills and tangible learning outcomes to CCU students, as well as enhance global research among CCU and USFQ faculty. Funding is available at the amount of \$1,500 to the student and \$2,200 for the faculty member to support costs of participation in Ecuador.

### ***Program Requirements***

1. CCU student who will study on CCU exchange with USFQ Ecuador for at least one semester or through an alternative exchange initiative with USFQ, taking a research course and/or independent study (depending on his/her major) as a part of the program and enrolling in INTL 398 as a part of the program;
2. CCU faculty member who commits to specific research supervision for the CCU student and who will travel to Ecuador to cooperate on the research project, build further collaborative bridges, and contribute to the exchange of ideas, research, and teaching between the institutions;
3. Identification and commitment of a faculty member from USFQ to collaborate on the joint research program with the CCU faculty member.

### ***Application Guidelines***

The application for funding is developed and submitted by the CCU faculty research supervisor. The deadlines for applications to be submitted into the Provost's Office for 2012/2013 are: November 9, 2012 for Spring and Summer (up to June 30) 2013 and March 15, 2013 for Fall Semester 2013. Deadlines for upcoming years will be announced each May. Applications for the initial round will be reviewed by the Executive Director of Global Initiatives, Office of International Programs, and Provost, with subsequent cycles reviewed by this group, along with faculty who have already participated in the project.

Complete applications from the faculty member should include the following:

1. Please outline your research project. What are the main research questions and objectives? What methodology will you employ to gather your data or implement your project? What is your experience in this area? What is your timeline/time frame? What is the expected outcome of your project? If this requires Institutional Research Review Board approval, what is your time line for acquiring this?
2. How will a joint initiative with La Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador (USFQ) enhance this project?
3. What are the short term and long term impacts of your collaboration between USFQ and CCU?
4. With whom in Ecuador will you work to fulfill your project goals? Have you communicated with this person?
5. How will you communicate throughout the duration of this project with your colleague from USFQ, Ecuador?
6. Do you have a student in mind with whom to collaborate on this research project? If so, what characteristics make this student the best choice to join in this endeavor?
7. Statement from the student collaborator at CCU denoting his/her intention to complete (a) semester study abroad or other program at USFQ in the semester noted in the application.
8. How will this project contribute to your departmental, college, and the university mission and goals?
9. Memo (or copy of email) from Department Chair and Dean endorsing the proposal for the faculty member/student pair and research project.

**Note:** Faculty interested in developing research contacts at USFQ to explore the feasibility of project cooperation are urged to contact the Office of International Programs and Services at 349-2054 or [parsons@coastal.edu](mailto:parsons@coastal.edu) prior to their applications to allow for contacts to be made to begin the facilitation process.