UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas
College of Arts and Sciences

MILES

Call for Grant Applications

Connected Worlds

Study Away & Study Abroad Experiences

J-term 2028

The Center for Multicultural and Interdisciplinary Learning Experiences for Students (MILES) is pleased to announce the Connected Worlds Grant, an initiative designed to expand student access to the high-quality, distinctive study-away and study-abroad courses that enrich the academic experience in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

The "Connected Worlds" initiative supports interculturally engaged learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom. It will provide scholarships for students to offset travel and on-site programming costs. These resources are intended to reduce financial barriers and encourage broad student participation.

The Center for MILES is inviting proposals for J-term 2028 study-abroad and study-away courses that align with the CAS strategic plan initiative to elevate interdisciplinary and intercultural programming and to promote transformative experiential education focused on addressing pressing global challenges.

Components of a Successful Proposal

A strong proposal would outline a course that incorporates intercultural learning, is grounded in the course location, draws on faculty with appropriate expertise, and incorporates clearly articulated experiential learning elements. Interdisciplinary approaches are highly encouraged, though not required. The course location should function as an authentic place-based learning environment, serving as a central and irreplaceable site that offers experiential learning not replicable on campus. Experiential or academic-based components, such as fieldwork, site visits, hands-on projects, or community-engaged learning, should be clearly described and, when possible, tied to the intercultural goals of the course. The inclusion of structured opportunities for students to interact with local individuals, communities, or organizations in mutually beneficial ways is encouraged.

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Eligibility Guidelines

- At least one of the instructors must hold a full-time faculty appointment in CAS.
- Eligible courses must be affiliated with a CAS-based academic department and/or program.
- J-term 2028 (ARCIE approved) study-abroad and study-away courses are eligible.
- Proposals seeking to establish new courses, substantially revise existing ones, or further strengthen existing interdisciplinary or intercultural components are eligible.

Submission Information

Deadline: Jan 8, 2027

Materials to be submitted:

1. **Instructor Information** (names, job titles and Dept/Program & College affiliations)
2. **Course Proposal Statement** (1,000 words max) - Please provide a brief statement describing how your course will support intercultural (and if applicable interdisciplinary) programming and how it will promote transformative experiential education. As you prepare your statement, **please be sure to address each of the components of a successful proposal outlined in this announcement.**
3. **ARCIE Proposal Packet** – packet you submitted to ARCIE.

Submission Process:

1. Submit by emailing the above documents (PDFs) to the Center for MILES: milescenter@stthomas.edu
2. Please include the following text in the subject line: ***Connected Worlds***

Evaluation and Funding Process

The final decision will be based on merit and the financial resources available. We aim to fund as many high-quality proposals as financially viable. All proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc panel composed of members of the Center for MILES Advisory Board. The panel will assess the proposals and make recommendations for finalists to the Dean of CAS and the Director of the Center for MILES. Finalists will be notified by February 22, 2027.

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Finalists will be invited to submit detailed program plans and *budget information for review as part of the second-stage application process. Final funding decisions will be made by the CAS Dean and the Director of the Center for MILES by March 22, 2027.

Questions?

For questions about proposal development Director of the Center for MILES please reach out to Dalma Martinović-Weigelt: mart6831@stthomas.edu

** Deadlines for budget development requests are designated to occur after ARCIE acceptance decisions are announced.*

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