

Special Call for Undergraduate Research Proposals

Resilient Communities in Transition

**Deadline for the submission of all application materials is
January 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm**

**Letter of intent to apply due by December 16, 2019 at 5:00
pm**

The UAA University Honors College through the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship is announcing a call for proposals by undergraduate students for an independent research or creative project in Havana, Cuba. Successful applicants should have the ability to envision and plan their own short-term independent research project exploring the theme of *Resilient Communities in Transition*.

Who is eligible? Applicants must be currently accepted in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (any campus) and enrolled in at least six credits each semester for the duration of the research (with the exception of the summer semester).

How many projects will be funded? Up to three students will be funded for this project in Spring 2020.

Why do you need a letter of intent and what should be included? We need a letter of intent so that we can begin the visa process in Cuba for all potential program participants. Your letter of intent should include a project title, abstract of no more than 250 words, and the name of your faculty mentor.

When is the program? May 11- June 1, 2020 (Final dates may vary a few days each side of May 11 and June 1.)

What work may be funded? We are seeking proposals that address topics such as:

- * Differing conceptions of resilience
- * Practices developed by necessity of available resources vs. national policy decisions to manage resources
- * Aspects/characteristics of strong or resilient communities and individuals
- * Strength or resilience in networks, such as food, energy, communications, and the arts
- * Exploration of the kinds of research that contribute to creating more resilient communities and individuals

- * Artistic forms of resilience and strength
- * Ways of writing, photography, expressive movement, theatre, performance, and art that help people respond to change or create solutions to existing or developing problems

Proposals from all disciplines will be considered. However, the proposed project needs to be approached through the methodologies of either the fine and performing arts, the humanities, or the social sciences examining aspects of social or cultural life.

Note: UAA and the Honors College reserve the right to reconsider any program for a variety of reasons, including due to conditions in the host country prior to or during the program.

Funding Available:

- RT Airfare between Anchorage and Havana, Cuba
- Up to \$2,500 towards research costs, room and board, and other travel expenses

Support Provided:

- The Ludwig Foundation will facilitate housing in double or single capacity rooms (depending on availability at the time in Havana).
- The Ludwig Foundation will assist successful applicants with their Cuban cultural visas. UAA University Honors College will assist with US travel permission to Cuba.
- UAA will provide mandatory orientation and training for the successful applicants
- UAA faculty will accompany students to Cuba.

Proposal Guidelines

(Dr. Jill Flanders Crosby (Theatre and Dance) and Dr. Francisco Miranda (Languages) are available to help in the development of ideas for proposals, budget preparation, and answer general questions about Cuba. They can be reached at jaflanderscrosby@alaska.edu and at fmiranda2@alaska.edu.)

- The project should reflect an original idea or creative endeavor that will extend knowledge in your area of interest or discipline.
- Your proposal should consist of the nine (9) items listed below.
- Proposals should have a running heading with applicant's name and page numbers in each page.

1. A completed OURS Cover Sheet (<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/honors-college/ours/research-opportunities/1%20UGR-CoverSheet-Form.pdf>)

- Include the project title, the applicant's name, and the applicant's signature.
- The faculty advisor's name and signature should also be included, certifying that they have reviewed the proposal for content and that the applicant is capable of performing the research or creative endeavor and that the faculty member agrees to mentor the applicant for the project.
- The cover sheet includes a Research Integrity and Compliance checklist, which must also be completed prior to submission. For more information on Research Integrity and Compliance at UAA, please visit www.uaa.alaska.edu/research/ric.
- Projects with more than one student investigator must complete the *Application Cover Sheet for Group Projects* and identify one student as the principal investigator who will take primary responsibility for overseeing the project. (https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/honors-college/ours/research-opportunities/UGR_Group_Cover_Sheet%20fillable.pdf)

2. Abstract and Specific Aims (approximately 1 page)

- A one paragraph summary of the project proposal, and a one paragraph summary of the project goals.

3. Introduction (1-2 pages)

- A review of the literature that supports the need for your research or creative endeavor.

4. Experimental/Project Design* (1-2 pages)

- Each proposal should include a detailed description of the final form of the scholarly or creative project and how it will be completed, including resources and methodology.

5. Anticipated Results (1 page) – Provide a description of the expected results.

- Proposals should include an analysis of the expected impact of the scholarly or creative work on the audience.

- Also, discuss any problems that could hinder your creative endeavor.

6. Project Budget (1-2 pages)

- Allow one page for the budget and one page for budget justification.
- Include the cost of personnel, supplies, equipment and travel (estimate \$65/day for room and board), and a brief justification for each item.
- Include \$200/week for research costs accrued in Cuba including those associated with the programming through the Ludwig Foundation.
- The student stipend should not be included in the project budget.
- Expenses that will not be allowed include:
 - a. Compensation for the student's time
 - b. Tuition to get credit for the project
 - c. Amounts for supplies or equipment that exceed reasonable and customary expenses
- Equipment purchased with the grant will belong to UAA after the research is concluded.
- Proposed expenses must be in accordance with UA Policy and Regulations.
- Funds must be expended as specified in the proposal.
- Be as accurate as possible in estimating your expenses.
- Do not inflate your budget; conversely, do not underestimate what your actual costs will be.
- If the project has funding from an external source outside of OURS include an appendix with information about the funding (e.g. grant proposal, contract, etc.), a short narrative that explains how the proposed project meshes with the external source, and a budget that shows what will be funded by the OURS grant and the external source.

7. Project References (1-2 pages)

- Use the standard convention of discipline including the author, title of

article, journal title, volume, pages, and date.

8. Project Timeline

- Outline the anticipated dates of completion of various stages of project between May 12 and June 2 including work to be done before and after the time in Havana.

9. Appendix (up to 2 pages)

- Applicant's résumé.
- If the project has more than one student investigator, please include a résumé for each applicant.

10. Student Obligations

- **Spring 2020** – attend all orientations and trainings prior to departure to Cuba
- **October 2020** – Presentation at Anchorage Museum
- **March 30, 2021** – Expenditure and Final Report deadline
- **April 2021** – Presentation at the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Symposium

Background on Resilient Communities Partnership with Ludwig Foundation and Anchorage Museum

Located approximately 4087 air miles apart, Cuba and Alaska are both undergoing rapid change. Alaska has a long history of adaptation to demanding climate and environmental conditions and economic periods of boom and bust. Cuba is facing climate change as well as social and economic changes due to shifting diplomatic relations with the United States and the temporary suspension of a fully-staffed U.S. Embassy in Havana.

In our current turbulent times, what resilient systems may emerge in the process of transition? While Cuba has long been required to adapt to shortages due to an American embargo and become inventive in the face of social and political realities, what will the future look like for Cubans moving forward? What similarities do both Cuba and Alaska share? What imaginative territories, spaces, places and methods of research dissemination are possible to explore?

While this grant is for travel to and research in Havana, Cuba, students are encouraged to consider imaginative ideas for connections between Cuba and Alaska with the option of continuing study back here at home in collaboration with the Anchorage Museum.

Proposals from all disciplines will be considered. However, the proposed project needs to be approached through the methodologies of either the fine and performing arts, the humanities, or the social sciences examining aspects of social or cultural life.

It is encouraged (but not mandatory) that the final research presentation have an aesthetic component as well as a final research paper. The Anchorage Museum will provide the forum for the aesthetic presentation in late September/early October 2019 with a specific date to be determined.

Visit the Centre for Imaginative Ethnography at <http://imaginativeethnography.org> to review various types of artistic responses across academic disciplines. Browse the member's page and consult individual profiles for examples of disciplines and innovative approaches to imaginative work.

Successful applicants will have the initiative for self-study and also have demonstrable research skills, as attested by successful participation in previous research or experiential activities.

The Ludwig Foundation in Havana, Cuba will offer on-site mentors, lectures, general staff support, and additional research suggestions.

UAA faculty will also be available in Havana, Cuba as additional mentors.

*Proficiency in Spanish is not required but it is strongly recommended.

Ludwig Foundation

- The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC) is a nongovernmental, autonomous cultural institution founded in 1995 by German art collectors Peter and Irene Ludwig.
 - Seeking to support the work of emerging artists, the LFC is positioned within the intellectual community as a leading center for creative thinking and dialogue.
 - Its academic, research and artistic programs approach complex social issues that can be tracked from the perspective of arts and culture.
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