

FAQ Sheet

Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)

Bilingualism, mind, and brain:

An interdisciplinary program in cognitive psychology, linguistics, and cognitive neuroscience

What is required to apply?

- Application deadline is December 06 for travel in summer 2014. Applicants will be notified on December 20th 2013.
- Application Materials:
 - Completed application form. To obtain a copy of the application form, please visit http://cls.psu.edu/PIRE/pire_faq.html. Your application must include a statement indicating how the research abroad experience will enhance your future educational and professional plans, what your plans are for presenting/disseminating the findings from your project and how will deal with being in a foreign country. Discuss what skills and personality traits you possess that will help you live and work more independently than when here at PSU. Questions about the application process and requests for application forms can be directed to **Sharon Elder at pireundergrads@gmail.com**.
 - Curriculum Vitae of applicant.
 - A letter of recommendation from a Center for Language Science (CLS; <http://www.cls.psu.edu/>) faculty research adviser. The letter must be sent directly from the adviser to Sharon Elder at pireundergrads@gmail.com
- Eligibility requirements:
 - (1) US citizen (any College in the University Park campus) and non-US citizens (in the College of the Liberal Arts—University Park)
 - (2) Must conduct research for the proposed summer research experience that fits with the goals of the CLS PIRE project (see the abstract for the PIRE grant at www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0968369)
 - (3) Must have completed research experience with a CLS research faculty member for at least one year prior to summer travel. Students currently enrolled in research credits with CLS faculty and students who plan to enroll for research credits during the entire upcoming academic year (i.e., Fall 2013 and Spring 2014) are eligible to apply.
 - (4) Eligible students will have at least once semester in residence remaining at PSU after returning from the summer abroad research experience.

Priority will be given to students with more research experience and to junior students. Students who currently do not have research experience can prepare themselves for eligibility by enrolling in research credits with a CLS faculty member starting in Fall 2013 and continuing in Spring 2014.

- Students selected to receive PIRE awards will be required to:
 - Enroll in 6 credits of LING 496 during the summer of travel abroad.
 - Enroll in 3 research credits with their PIRE advisor during the returning in residence semester (i.e. Fall 2014 for students traveling during Summer 2014) to complete their project, present their work at the CLS and serve as a “PIRE buddy” for the undergraduate cohort traveling in Summer 2015.
 - Attend the CLS meetings, which are held every Friday from 9:00 to 10:30 am.
Place to be announced.

How many students will be accepted? How long is the experience?

- Nine (9) students will travel for 8 weeks in the summer of 2014
- The start and end time depends on where the student is going; it will likely vary for all 9 students.

How is placement at sites determined? Does everyone have to go to a different site?

- Placement is determined by the research question students decide to investigate and the type of bilinguals students want to study.
- Plan the project with your CLS faculty adviser. Be sure to justify the need to do the research abroad vs. here.
- We will try to keep the number of students even among the PIRE sites.

What expenses are covered? Where will I be living?

- Tuition, travel, insurance, lodging, food, and subject/research expenses
 - Lodging will differ by site (it may be a dorm, apartment, etc.). Lodging and travel will be arranged by the staff at PSU directly with the partners at each site.

Are classes required? Is this like study abroad and can I receive study abroad credits?

- There are no classes to attend; however, you must register for 6 credits of LING 496 (research experience) in the summer semester you are abroad.
 - This allows a grade to be assigned and for support from Global Programs.
 - Will be required to blog weekly while abroad to discuss your experience.
- This is not like study abroad; you do research and do not take classes.
 - You cannot get study abroad credits in this program. Only research credit.

Will I be on my own while on the research abroad experience?

- No! You will be working with the partners and other students. We know the partners very well because we have collaborated with them and have visited them on multiple occasions. Some of our partners have also visited Penn State, so they are familiar with the Penn State system. We will be hosting a planning meeting in February that will give the students a chance to meet all but one of the partners.
- Mentoring program:
 - While abroad you will be teamed up with a graduate student from Penn State who has research experience and possibly experience at your site. There may be instances when you can travel together or live together, depending on the sites chosen and timing.
 - Your Penn State CLS faculty adviser will be in contact with you throughout the summer.
 - The partners and other faculty at the sites will also serve as mentors.

Do I need to be proficient in the language of the country I will be in?

- No, this is not necessary; the purpose of the travel abroad is to conduct research.
- However, there will be some language training available in the spring. The nature of the training will depend on the language of the country.
 - Able to audit language courses; allows you to sit in on the class without receiving a grade.

Where do I start with writing my statement for the application?

- **Meet with your CLS faculty adviser. Work with him/her on every step of this process.**
- Read about the research being conducted at the sites.
- Think about what research questions you want the answers to and how conducting the research abroad will help you in that effort.

Should my research idea be an extension of what I am working on already?

- Yes! If you are currently working on a project, it makes sense to continue that topic. The best projects will be those that entail collaboration among you, PSU faculty member(s), and the faculty member(s) abroad.

Once I have my idea, do I contact the partner I want to work with?

- Not on your own. Consult with your CLS faculty adviser and contact the partner together.

How do I gain research experience with the CLS if I have not yet done so?

- Visit the CLS website at <http://www.cls.psu.edu/> to review the research being conducted by the faculty (<http://www.cls.psu.edu/faculty.shtml>)
 - Contact the faculty members you have an interest in working with. Find out more about what they are doing and if they have room in their labs.
- Attend the CLS Friday meetings. Every Friday from 9-10:30
- Join the CLS listserv for information on Friday meetings, visiting lecturers, and all things to do with the CLS! Please email Bobby Marker to sign up rjm35@psu.edu

Center for Language Science (CLS) is located in the basement of Moore Building

Sharon Elder, Administrative Support Assistant

Send all questions and applications to: pireundergrads@gmail.com