

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 November 19th for travel in summer 2011. Applicants will be notified beginning December 3rd.
- Application Materials:
 - Completed application form.
 - Curriculum Vitae of applicant.
 - A statement indicating how the research abroad experience will enhance the applicant's future educational and professional plans.
 - A letter of recommendation from the Center for Language Science (CLS; <http://www.cls.psu.edu/>) faculty research adviser. The letter must be sent directly from the adviser to Amber Evans at pireundergrads@gmail.com
- Eligibility requirements:
 - Must be a US citizen
 - Must be actively conducting research on language to propose a summer research experience that fits with the goals of the PIRE project.
 - Must have a minimum of a semester of research experience with a CLS research faculty member. This can include spring 2011 for summer 2011 (this is an exception for this first year only). Priority will be given to students who have had more than one semester of research experience.
 - Must have at least one semester (in residence) remaining at PSU after returning from the summer abroad.

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

- Eight (8) students able to go for 8 weeks in the summer (we anticipate that this opportunity will be available for five consecutive summers beginning summer 2011).
- The start and end time depends on where the student is going; it will likely vary for all 8 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 5 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 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.
 - Keep in mind that Janet van Hell (jgv3@psu.edu) is joining us in the spring for her first semester so she may be in need of undergraduates to assist her.
- Attend the CLS Friday meetings. Every Friday from 10-11:30 in 102 Chambers.
- Join the CLS listserv for information on Friday meetings, visiting lecturers, and all things to do with the CLS! Please email Max Freeman to sign up mrf5074@psu.edu

Center for Language Science (CLS) located in Thomas basement
Amber Evans, Administrative support Assistant (2M Thomas)
Send all questions and applications to: pireundergrads@gmail.com