



**Africa Teaching Initiative  
Request for Applications (RFA)**

Updated 9/13/18

**Introduction:** The primary purpose of the **Africa Teaching Initiative** is to strengthen the on-campus curriculum at University of Nebraska campuses regarding any country or region of Africa.<sup>1</sup> It is designed to facilitate new and strengthen existing collaborations among faculty regarding instruction about any topic regarding Africa.

**Background:**

The University of Nebraska's Strategy for Global Engagement emphasizes that "strengthening global engagement and building on a tradition of success with international activities will improve the educational outcomes the university seeks."

One of the six goals identified in the Global Engagement Strategy is to encourage faculty to increase global perspectives in their on-campus courses and programs. More than 70% of our students do not participate in a formal education abroad program, and it is important that these students be exposed to global themes, regional histories and perspectives, foreign languages and literatures, and disciplinary insights from different regions of the world. Such experiences are essential in order for students to develop a global mindset and the skills they need in order to contribute meaningfully in our rapidly changing and globalizing world.

With 1.2 billion inhabitants spread across 55 countries, the continent of Africa is a dynamic part of the world. NU faculty, staff and students have been interacting with people across Africa for decades, and NU engagements in Africa are rapidly expanding. The University of Nebraska held a very successful "Africa Summit 2018" where attendees expressed interest in enhancing the curriculum on topics that connect the countries of Africa with global trends and themes.

**Africa Teaching Grant [up to \$10,000 total for one year]**

Africa Teaching Grants are intended to support the development of new courses or the revision of existing courses whose purpose is to introduce students to any country or region of Africa and from any disciplinary perspective. It is hoped that Africa Teaching Grants will facilitate the development of multi-campus and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning about Africa. Funding is available to support planning meetings, retreats, and/or inter-campus travel to develop new courses or coordinate teaching efforts across campuses.

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<sup>1</sup> For our purposes, Africa includes the countries of the Middle East due to their long-standing connections with North Africa.

**General Eligibility:** Assistant, Associate or Full Professors and equivalent-rank professors of practice employed by any University of Nebraska campus are eligible to submit funding applications.

**Process:**

During AY 2018-2019, the University of Nebraska Central Administration will make one or more awards up to an aggregate total of \$10,000 to support the development of new courses or the revision of existing courses whose purpose is to introduce large numbers of students to topics relating to Africa as part of the on-campus curriculum.

- It is expected that new courses selected for funding will be proposed through the appropriate departmental, college, and campus curriculum committees for review and approval, with the goal that all new courses will be fully approved no later than December 2019 and ready to be taught no later than Spring Semester 2020.
- Proposals must include a formal process for assessing the impact of the course on students, in addition to regular course assignments and a final grade.
- The maximum budget available for any one course is \$5000. A **detailed budget** is required as part of the proposal. Possible expenditures could include summer salary (with departmental approval), travel to develop course-related materials, partial support for a student worker, and purchase of books or resources for the course. Funds are expected to be spent by June 30, 2019.
- New course proposals will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria listed below.

**Deadline**

The deadline for submitting proposals has been changed to Wednesday October 31, 2018. Please forward your proposal to:

UNK: Dr. Tim Burkink, Dean of the College of Business and Technology and interim senior international officer, email: burkinktj@unk.edu

UNL: Office of Global Strategies, email, globalstrategies@unl.edu

UNMC: Dr. Jane Meza, Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement, email: jmeza@unmc.edu

UNO: Dr. Jane Meza, Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement, email: jmeza@unmc.edu

**Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Course description and instructor(s) (20 points)  
Identify the following:
  - a. The individual(s) who will create/revise and teach the course and their experience with the proposed content, including teaching or research at a previous institution. Attach a recent CV for each person involved with developing or teaching the course.

- b. The academic department in which the course will be offered.
  - c. The proposed level of the course.
  - d. Description of how the individuals who will create/revised and teach the course developed expertise on the proposed topic.
  - e. How frequently the course will be offered after it is created/revised and officially approved.
  - f. How many students the course is expected to enroll each time offered.
  - g. Key objectives of the course, including proposed learning outcomes.
  - h. Steps to be taken to get the course approved through the approval process (department, college, campus-wide, etc.).
2. Need for the course (10 points)
  - a. Explain why the proposed course is needed by the academic department or program and how it fits into the curriculum of both the academic department and other majors or minors or programs on campus.
  - b. Indicate whether the academic department offers other courses on similar or related topics. If so, please identify and describe (1-2 sentences per course).
3. Proposed budget and cost effectiveness (10 points)
  - a. Provide a **detailed budget** with proposed costs and timeline for expenditures.
  - b. Identify the person(s) who will incur those costs.
  - c. Explain whether other funds will be used to leverage NU Central's funds for this curricular project from department, college or other sources.
4. Assessment of impact (10 points)
  - a. In addition to regular course assignments and final grades, describe other steps that will be taken, such as pre/post assessment activities or a tracking system, to assess whether the proposed course has made a difference in the personal and professional development of the students who enroll in it.
  - b. Provide a timeline for the evaluation process and its implementation once the course begins.

### **Additional Guidance:**

#### ***Budget***

Complete the online budget and budget justification forms. Personnel expenses aggregated on the budget form must be justified individually.

- F&A costs are not allowable expenses.
- Academic year salary for the individual(s) who will create/revise and teach the course are not allowable expenses. Summer salary expenses (0.5 month maximum) are only allowed for a lead faculty member without summer support; no salary savings can be accrued.
- Outline what budget resources (dollars) would be made available to each participating faculty member and what resources will be managed "centrally" by the lead faculty. Provide a clear rationale linking budgetary resources and collaborative role(s).

**Post Award Management, Obligations, and Reporting Requirements:** Faculty who are awarded an Africa Teaching Grant will be required to submit a brief project initiation report three months after award; while the grant remains active, programmatic progress and detailed financial reports will be due 30 days after each award anniversary. In addition, we require an annual summary pertinent to course implementation and information about efforts to assess the impact on students each June for three years beginning in 2020. This program is administered by the University of Nebraska's Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.