

Visiting Scholar Application

David O. McKay School of Education

Alliances for the Strength of Youth

Summary

Funding up to \$10,000 for a nationally renowned scholar to visit BYU campus and provide multiple benefits to MSE faculty members.

General Guidelines

The overall aim of the Visiting Scholar program is to enhance relationships among MSE faculty members with individuals who have contributed significantly to their profession. These relationships should specifically include at least one of the following components: (1) research collaboration on specific projects and lines of inquiry, (2) development of processes or networks that facilitate MSE faculty productivity or recognition, or (3) development of products and/or interventions that have a substantive impact.

Additional Considerations

- Number of MSE faculty members directly involved. Preference will be given to applications that detail specific benefits to several MSE faculty members.
- Depth of the relationship. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate that a professional working relationship has already been established with the visiting scholar, such that their visit to BYU campus will be a “working visit.” (Applicants interested in establishing a working relationship with national scholars can request funding through the application for “Professional Mentors”).
- Ongoing work. Preference will be given to applications that articulate long-term plans for continued involvement with the visiting scholar (including possible future visits). However, applications for a one-time visit will be considered.
- Potential for positive impact. Applications that document how a particular scholar can provide resources or skills to MSE faculty or can assist with resolving an existing problem that has not been adequately addressed through internal MSE resources will be given special consideration.

Presentation to the MSE

All visiting scholars should be invited to share their expertise in a given content area with the entire MSE. The time and format of the presentation could vary, although typically it would occur in a 50-minute presentation scheduled at a time when all MSE faculty members could attend (e.g., the first Thursday of the month at 11AM, currently designated for MSE faculty meetings). Optimal topics would be those that apply to a wide variety of faculty members.

Potential Ways of Involving Visiting Scholars

Research Collaboration

Although research collaboration can often occur via telephone/internet, there are times when face to face interactions are optimal (e.g., visiting a data collection site to observe and eliminate potential confounds, coordinating future projects with many people involved, resolving discrepancies in qualitative data coding, etc.).

Example: MSE faculty members involve a visiting scholar as co-author to assist with data collection at another location. While at BYU, the scholar helps to finalize the materials and procedures that will be used at both sites.

Skill Enhancement

MSE faculty members increase their skills in a given area (e.g., statistics, qualitative data analyses) by participating in a series of workshops/demonstrations provided by the visiting scholar.

Example: MSE faculty desire to integrate a new method for instruction across several courses. They involve the instructors of those courses in the visiting scholar's workshops/demonstrations of the new method.

Administrative/Organizational Consultation

Visiting scholars with clear expertise in administrative/organizational issues can be enlisted to consult with MSE administrators, department chairs, program coordinators, etc. Such consultation should optimally be targeted to an issue/problem that has already been recognized as being in need of reparation.

Example: A scholar with multicultural education expertise describes how to better recruit and retain students of color.

Mentoring for Students

Some visiting scholars can be used to facilitate the work of undergraduate and/or graduate students. Graduate students in particular would benefit from enlisting the visiting scholar in consultation about thesis/dissertation research or their application of a particular technology or procedure.

Example: An African American visiting scholar could have a lunch meeting with the BYU Black Student Union to encourage them to pursue graduate education or to work for community empowerment.

Application

Submit a formal letter *signed by all applicants* that contains the following information:

1. Name and qualifications of the visiting scholar (attach a copy of the CV).
2. Nature of the MSE faculty members' relationship with the proposed visiting scholar. (Include descriptions of previous work and plans for future work following the visit).
3. How would the visiting scholar further the work of the MSE faculty members and the mission of the MSE? (This is the most important aspect of the application. Please be specific regarding such things as: grant writing, administrative consulting, product development, curriculum refinement, service provision, instruction in research procedures not generally know, etc. Demonstrate how the visiting scholar will meet needs that cannot be met through internal BYU resources.)
4. Tentative schedule for the proposed visit (include specific events/meetings to occur, listing participants at each event).
5. Budget (stipends paid to the visiting scholar should not exceed \$2,000 per day and travel expenses should generally not exceed \$1,200)
6. Letter of endorsement from Department Chair or similar MSE administrator.

Completed applications should be submitted to Daniela Cisternas (daniela_cisternas@byu.edu) by date posted on education.byu.edu/research