

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Dissertation Workshop for Students of Government, International Relations, and Politics Islamabad, December 5-8, 2010

The American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) is pleased to invite proposals for a dissertation workshop for doctoral and M. Phil. students of Government, International Relations, and Politics. The AIPS, established in 1973, is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization whose mission is to encourage and support research on issues relevant to Pakistan and the promotion of scholarly exchange between Pakistan and the United States. AIPS aims to facilitate scholarship within academe in Pakistan in various disciplines through the holding of dissertation workshops. AIPS is also organizing a separate workshop for students whose research is focused on women in Pakistan. November 1-3, 2010; contact AIPS or the HEC for further details on that workshop.

This dissertation workshop is for doctoral students in any subfield of government, international relations, and politics, and will be run by political scientist Professor Christopher Candland (Ph.D., Columbia University), Wellesley College. The workshop will bring together M.Phil and doctoral students in Pakistan who are developing dissertation proposals or are in early phases of research or dissertation writing and who seek to develop richer, more robust understandings of their fields and strengthen their methodological expertise. It will engage aspiring scholars of government, international relations, and political science to assist them in developing and sharpening research questions, placing these questions within larger theoretical contexts, sharing global norms of scholarship in research, writing, and citation, and structuring the dissertation.

The workshop will be limited to 12 students, ideally from a broad array of universities within Pakistan. The workshop will last for three days. Participants will be provided with reading assignments – a few short articles and each other’s proposals – which must be read before the start of the workshop. The first full day of the workshop, December 6, will focus on discussions of those seminal articles as well as issues such as identifying existing studies, formulating research questions, and developing appropriate methodologies. On the second and third days, each participant will discuss his or her dissertation proposal. Participants will address both theory, methods, substance, and structure of each dissertation proposal, and tie these to the discussions held on the first day.

Each day will include a buffet lunch and a relaxed dinner to facilitate further discussion. There will be an inaugural dinner Sunday evening December 5 and a farewell dinner on December 8. The HEC will provide round-trip transportation to Islamabad and four nights accommodation in the HEC hostel in Islamabad for all participants.

Applicants need not have advanced to candidacy but must have drafted a dissertation research proposal. Applications are also welcome from doctoral students in the early phases of writing their dissertations.

Workshop participants will be selected on the basis of the intellectual merits of the research proposal submitted, the potential for useful exchanges among scholars, and a concern to include a wide range of perspectives.

Applications should consist of two items only:

Current curriculum vitae

The dissertation proposal, or if the research and writing is under way, a statement of the specific issues being addressed, the intellectual approach, and the materials being studied

Neither the proposal nor statement should exceed 10 double-spaced pages in length.

Applications submission details:

Email (preferable) submissions with attachments to: aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org

If an applicant is unable to submit the application electronically, then the application may be mailed to:

Nadeem Akbar
American Institute of Pakistan Studies
8 Main Ataturk Ave F-6/4
Islamabad

Applications *must* include an email address that can be used to inform the applicant of the selection committee's decision and to circulate reading materials before the workshop.

Deadline for submission of application is October 15, 2010

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by November 1, 2010.

Successful applicants will receive the reading packet electronically by November 15, 2010.

For further information, please contact

Nadeem Akbar
American Institute of Pakistan Studies
8 Main Ataturk Ave F-6/4
Islamabad

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