

## Summer 2021 Tunisia Undergraduate Scholarship Program (Tunisia UGRAD)

### Request for Applications Questions and Answers

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#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

**Question: Will you choose only one host university for the summer 2021 program?**

*Answer:* We may consider more than one host institution if it is best for the participants' experience regarding the proposed programming plan/activities. We encourage you to detail in your narrative and budget how many participants your institution has the capacity to support – including if you are able to host all 11 participants.

**Question: What is the most likely number of students who would be coming to us?**

*Answer:* In the event that IREX selects more than one partner institution to implement the summer 2021 Tunisia UGRAD Program, the number of participants placed at each university/college will depend in part on each selected institution's capacity. IREX will not seek to place more participants at an institution than the number the institution indicated in its application. As noted in the Request for Applications, the minimum number of participants that could be placed at a single institution is five.

**Question: Is possible to host it entirely virtual?**

*Answer:* While there may be some flexibility to offer portions of the programming virtually, we do not foresee a possibility of the summer 2021 program being implemented in an entirely virtual format.

**Question: While we would certainly be hoping to provide as much in-person activity as possible, at this time, we might not be able to definitively state if all activities on and off campus will be able to be in person. How might these COVID restrictions, in particular a need to conduct more activity online, impact the competitiveness of our application?**

*Answer:* We understand the ever-evolving circumstances around COVID-19 may present challenges for forecasting the availability of in-person activities for summer 2021. As a result, we ask that for each component, applicants include a description of any virtual adaptations they could make to program activities in light of public health concerns. Additionally, we would like to ask that applicants note in their applications what they believe is the most likely scenario (e.g. in-person, hybrid, virtual) for their institution for each program component. Applications will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria listed in the Request for Applications.

**Question: Will students be vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to arriving in the U.S./arrival on campus? And/or will there be any COVID testing requirements for students during the program?**

*Answer:* Whether a given participant has been vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to their arrival in the United States/arrival on campus is dependent on a variety of factors, including their interest in receiving a vaccine and physical access to one. IREX will provide participants with relevant public health guidance, as well as travel kits containing items like masks and hand sanitizer, prior

to their trip to the United States to ensure they have knowledge and resources needed for a safe journey. Participants will be expected to adhere to any and all COVID testing requirements applicable to them as noted by IREX and federal, state, and local authorities.

## AWARD TIMELINE INFORMATION

**Question: In the RFA it suggests that a mid-July start date is best. Our new international student orientation is August 19, so that would be difficult. Is an earlier start date possible?**

*Answer:* To clarify, the program should run from approximately mid/late June through mid/late August. Please consider your university's regularly scheduled summer and fall activities to ensure your proposed timeline for the summer Tunisia UGRAD program complements this schedule.

**Question: Does "mid to late August" include the workshop in DC? For example, could scholars leave August 7 for DC or is that date set?**

*Answer:* The dates of the ReEntry Workshop in August will be determined based in part on the selected partner institution(s)' program schedules.

## PROGRAMMING INFORMATION

**Question: Can you elaborate more on your expectations for the academic component? We traditionally do not have on-campus classes over summer so whatever we put together would be bespoke.**

*Answer:* We understand that summer class schedules vary between institutions and that it may not be feasible for participants to direct enroll in summer coursework. If this is not possible, applicants should design a bespoke academic program for participants – this may include activities such as panel discussions with academic professionals, a learning series covering a different topic each week, etc.

**Question: Will students want to receive university credits for the courses they take with us?**

*Answer:* In light of the abbreviated format of the program, we understand that it may not be feasible for the participants to direct enroll in for-credit coursework during their program. In the event that participants will not be able to receive credit through the academic component of the program at their host institution, IREX will convey this to them so that they have this understanding prior to the program start. Additionally, IREX and the partner institution would outline and highlight the benefits of the academic activities in which they would be participating.

**Question: Is it possible to get the numbers of males/females in the group (to help determine housing needs)?**

*Answer:* We anticipate 1 male and 10 female participants will take part in the summer program.

**Question: I understand that students will need single rooms, but would it be ok to have a common living area (but each student in a separate bedroom)? Or a 4-bedroom apartment 2 students per bathroom set up?**

*Answer:* Participants should have single bedrooms and there may be flexibility to host students in living arrangements with some shared spaces (e.g. restrooms, lounges). Applicants should outline how common areas would be maintained to ensure maximum safety standard protocols are followed.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**Question: In the Narrative Guidance section, it states “The Host Partner Narrative, inclusive of all responses, should be no more than 10 pages, double-spaced, 11pt. font. Any attachments (sample agenda, program schedule, resumes) in addition to the narrative and budget should total no more than 12 total pages.” Does this mean that the narrative section that is uploaded can be up to 22 pages (10 for the responses; 12 for attachments)?**

*Answer:* The combination of the Host Partner Narrative and any attachments in addition to the narrative and budget may be up to 22 pages; specifically, the narrative should be no more than 10 pages, double-spaced, 11 pt. font and any attachments in addition to the narrative and budget should total no more than 12 total pages.

**Question: Can we submit multiple date choices in the application? What is the earliest you would want them to start?**

*Answer:* The U.S.-based component of the program may begin as early as mid-June. If your institution would like to submit a date range in your application, we would ask that this be as narrow as possible to help us understand the options available to us once we receive applications.

**Question: Should the budget narrative be included on the budget spreadsheet or uploaded as part of the Narrative? It looks like only one document can be uploaded for the Narrative.**

*Answer:* The budget narrative should be uploaded as part of the same document as the Host Partner Narrative and other required documents/information. The budget spreadsheet should be uploaded as a separate, stand-alone document.

**Question: The budget worksheet indicates that the cost is for 11 participants (“Total Cost for 11 Participants” in the last row). If we are proposing for fewer than the full 11 participants, should we change that? Is there a better chance of funding for a proposal that will serve the entire cohort?**

*Answer:* If the university is interested in hosting fewer than 11 participants, kindly update the description of the final row in the budget spreadsheet accordingly. Applications will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria listed in the Request for Applications.

**Question: What is the work plan attachment that is listed in the RFA?**

*Answer:* The work plan should include the partner institution’s planned activities from the beginning to end of the subaward (April 1 – September 15). This includes activities such as program development, securing necessary staff support, and program implementation.

**Question: For the DUNS number, can we just supply it as part of our application or does something need to be attached to the application?**

*Answer:* The DUNS number can be included as part of the application. It does not need to be a separate attachment.