

Office of International Programs (OIP)¹

Global Footprints Grant

Office of International Programs - CHS 214-2 – intlprog@ithaca.edu - Tel: 607- 274- 3306

Grant total will be \$500.00. Grant will be made available to a student enrolled on any spring or fall semester, Ithaca College study abroad program (i.e. the London Center, exchange or affiliated programs). Grant proposals are due on November 15th for the spring semester and April 15th for the fall semester. One grant will be available per semester.

Students are asked to propose a research topic of study on the subject of sustainability that they can reasonably accomplish while overseas. Students are also asked to find an Ithaca College faculty member to assist them in organizing their research. [Students may also pursue the option to do their research as an independent study project to earn a credit. The extra work and tuition necessary to do this will be the responsibility of the student.]

Completed proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of faculty and staff involved with sustainability on campus and one proposal will be chosen for each semester. The grant recipient will be expected to conduct research on their chosen topic and to present it on Sustainability Day, if they studied abroad in the spring, or at the Whalen Symposium, if they studied abroad in the fall, or some other reasonable and relevant presentation may be proposed. Additionally, the written reports will be posted on the OIP website.

The grant funds will be administered by the Office of International Programs. \$250.00 will be given to the student before his/her departure, to assist him/her with research related costs. The remaining \$250.00 will be awarded after the written report has been submitted to the Office of International Programs.

The OIP Global Footprints Grant was developed in January 2007 by the Office of International Programs as a Carbon Offsetting initiative, i.e. in order to offset the carbon generated by the necessary travels that OIP employees do every year. Carbon offsetting has gained much attention recently, as carbon pollution contributes significantly to global warming and thus threatens the sustainability of life on earth. In order to assist people to offset the carbon generated by their travels, businesses have developed that allow people to contribute funds, proportionate to the amount they travel, to projects that seek to reduce global warming (such as planting trees and developing alternative energy sources). Rather than pay money to an outside agency, the OIP decided to initiate its own carbon offsetting fund, by investing in our students, by educating them, and by giving them opportunities to educate others on the issues surrounding sustainability, in general. To learn more about carbon offsetting, visit http://www.carbonfootprint.com/carbon_offset.html.

An ecological footprint is widely used as an indicator of environmental sustainability. It is commonly used to explore the sustainability of individual lifestyles in terms of their overall consumption patterns and uses of energy. A global footprint stresses the need to examine our combined footprints and/or to examine the effects of our own footprints on people and environments in other countries and cultures, thus the name of this grant. Visit <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/> for more information.

¹ Last updated February 6, 2008

Suggested Research topics:

Sustainability covers a wide array of fields. Sustainability topics would include anything that looks at ways of reducing the human impact on the global environment and on energy consumption. We are interested in students conducting research on what is being done overseas in terms of sustainability initiatives that could be useful information for students at Ithaca College and elsewhere. Students are encouraged to work with themes with which they are already familiar in order to have a basis for comparison and a knowledge base from which to work. Examples may include:

- 1) What is the average home size in the country/community where you are? How are homes constructed? How does it compare to US home sizes and what are the implications for sustainability?
- 2) Are there particular communities or organizations that are working on sustainability initiatives? What do those initiatives look like and what can we learn from them?
- 3) Is there a consciousness of the need for energy conservation? How is this manifested and what could be done to change it?
- 4) What do the people in the country where you are studying eat and where does their food come? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 5) What does the health care system look like? Is there a traditional medicinal practice still in use? How does that practice depend on the natural environment and its conservation?
- 6) How are people in the country where you are studying generating power? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 7) How are media such as film, newspaper, theater, and/or music being used to educate about sustainability or the need for resource protection and conservation? How does that compare to the US?
- 8) What kinds of transportation do people use and how do they use it? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 9) What is the family structure like? How do families work together to consolidate resource use? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 10) What are innovative technologies that are being used in order to reduce energy consumption? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 11) Are children being educated about the need to be conscious of the earth's carrying capacity and their role in caring for the earth? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 12) How are local businesses taking leadership in their community to educate about the need for sustainably produced products? How does that compare to the US?
- 13) What is the role of poverty, equality and justice in our ability to reach a sustainable global lifestyle? What do you see around you that can inform you of this?

Just about every major area of study at Ithaca College can find related topics to study and/or ways that they can be helpful in communicating with others about sustainability themes. If you need help materializing a research topic, please contact the OIP and we will work with you.

Faculty Advisors:

It will be up to the student to locate a faculty member who can serve as their faculty advisor. The student will need to describe the OIP Global Footprints Grant to the faculty and ask for the necessary assistance, as well as a signature on the application form attesting to the fact that the faculty member agrees to be the grant advisor to that student. Faculty members are welcome to contact the OIP with any questions.

OIP Global Footprints Grant Application Form

Office of International Programs - CHS 214-2 – intlprog@ithaca.edu - Tel: 607- 274- 3306

Name: _____ ID#: _____

Class standing while abroad: Sophomore Junior Senior

Program with which you will be studying _____ in _____
City/Country

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Campus/Local Address:

Residence hall/Street

City State Zip

Local/Cell Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Faculty Advisor for the grant _____ Dept. _____

Signature of Faculty Advisor _____ Date _____

Please describe the topic that you are interested in researching overseas. Include your experience with this topic so far and how you propose to go about your research. Also, include how you expect to use the initial \$250.00 to support your research. (We realize you won't know very much before reaching your destination and your project will probably transform while overseas, but do give us an indication of your knowledge of how to go about finding answers to your question.) Use more paper if necessary.

I agree to the terms of this grant and that I will present my research to the IC Community in a manner agreed to by all parties.

Signed _____ Date _____