Request for Proposals – IRISE Research Fellows Program

The University of Denver Interdisciplinary Research Institute for the Study of (In)Equality (IRISE) requests proposals from DU faculty for the selection of up to four post-terminal degree fellows.

Purpose

In response to DU IMPACT 2025 and in collaboration with the Grand Challenges Initiative, IRISE re-envisioned its work to address racial equity throughout Colorado and the greater Rocky Mountain West. This work occurs in four dynamic and interconnected areas of impact: (1) Research, scholarship and creative works; (2) community leadership and development; (3) the application of research, scholarship and creative works to policy and legislative outcomes; and (4) supporting and partnering with academic programs at DU that provide a critical examination of race and ethnicity as categories of social, political, historical, and cultural analysis in the United States.

At the center of this project is to transform IRISE into a community-centered fulcrum that amplifies campus expertise, marshals interdisciplinary campus resources, and creates meaningful pathways for DU to partner with community leaders and organizations to challenge systems and structures that lead to racial and social inequities. In turn, IRISE encourages and equips our campus to partner with community agencies, historically marginalized groups, and individuals in the collaborative production and application of knowledge leading to greater community inclusion.1 In short, IRISE works to draw together the DU community, local community leaders and activists, legislators, and all those interested in investing in solutions to close racial equity gaps in Colorado and throughout the region.

1 Community inclusion is a concept that has been used in the areas of public health and disability to highlight all of the ways that people are given the opportunity to live and feel equally valued in one’s community with the ultimate goal of inclusion. The concept, along with that of social inclusion, highlights many of the ways that minoritized communities have been denied equal and substantive access to political, social, cultural, and economic resources. For IRISE, community inclusion encapsulates the need to support multiple pathways to power and resources for historically marginalized groups.
Post Terminal Degree Fellowship Information

IRISE will fund four two-year fellowships from 2020 to 2022.

We are especially interested in partnering with campus-wide initiatives and/or already existing interdisciplinary community engaged research projects to build upon and amplify current work, expertise and partnerships at DU. We therefore are seeking proposals where IRISI Postdoctoral Fellows can join such initiatives or projects to specifically work on conducting collaborative community-based participatory research (“CBPR”) to address racial and intersecting connected inequities locally and regionally.

IRISE postdoctoral fellows should be scholars with interests in racial inequality and structural racism in its myriad of forms in the post-World War II United States and who utilize Critical Race Theory (“CRT”) and/or apply Asset Based Community Development (“ABCD”) in their research, scholarship, or teaching. The fellow will also be expected to engage actively with the university and broader community to explore solutions to these issues.

In addition to post-dissertation research support, the fellow will have the opportunity to work with mentors in a number of areas, including: continued scholarly collaboration; interactions with the faculty and graduate students in each of the sponsoring centers, departments and/or divisions; and cultivation of administrative and research support sufficient to allow the completion of a major research product during their time at DU.

The fellow will spend the majority of time engaged in collaborative research, scholarship, or creative work under the guidance of departmental faculty members or a center director. Fellows will teach one course in their first year and two courses in their second year, each on a topic related to racial and ethnic studies. Courses may be cross-listed across relevant departments and/or taught in alternative departments in different terms. The fellow will also collaborate on the vision, design and implementation of IRISE programming related to their research areas each year. The successful candidate will also be expected to actively participate in and support IRISE’s intellectual life and various other related campus and community engaged initiatives.

Candidates should be committed to working with diverse students and community organizations. We do not expect candidates to have experience in all areas of the fellowship, as training will be provided by the mentors. Nonetheless, we especially encourage proposals from disciplines that can provide the mentoring and support to the fellow so that they are successful during the term of their postdoc and beyond. In addition, because of the value of lived experiences in the investigation and understanding of racial inequality, we especially encourage applications from racially minoritized groups.
Proposal Process

Full proposals are due no later than October 25, 2019. They should be completed and emailed as an attached pdf document of no more than 8 pages (double spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins) to the IRISE email account at irise@du.edu. The email subject head should be “IRISE fellow proposal.”

Criteria

Proposals should address the following issues:

1. On what type of existing initiative and or project[s] will the fellow work?
2. How will the fellow advance DU faculty research and collaboration on racial equity and equality? How will the fellow complement and extend work being conducted at the university more broadly?
3. Describe community engagement and interdisciplinary components of the research, scholarship, or creative activity of the fellow.
4. How will this experience support the academic career of the fellow (thus enhancing inclusive excellence and the study of (in)equality in the academy more generally)?
5. What are the key characteristics for the ideal fellow (e.g., education, experiences, skills)?
6. What recruitment strategies will be used to increase the likelihood of advancing compositional diversity of the applicant pool?
7. What resources do the university, division, and or department bring to the table that will make the position attractive to and productive for a fellow?
   - This should include both in and cross-department resources (e.g., intellectual, professional, or collaborative resources, office and lab/studio space) and divisional and university resources (e.g., programs and faculty outside the home department and division)?
   - Note that the needs and resources will vary by mentors, project, and department; lab or studio space may be necessary in some cases; the department, division, or IRISE may be the best source of office space depending on the fellow’s needs, etc.
8. Describe the mentorship team of the fellow and each person’s role.
   - Ideal proposals will have a mix of senior and junior faculty with an appropriate reference to the different obligations and expectations of faculty according to rank and experience.

In addition to the above (and not included in the 8-page limit), proposals must include a statement of agreement from the chair(s) of the mentors and the dean of the primary mentor(s) who will be working with the fellow and a current 2 page cv of each faculty member of the mentorship team. This statement will be in addition to the proposal with the purpose of illustrating understanding of and commitment to the shared and integrated research and scholarship of the fellow.

Timeline

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<td>Sept. 2019</td>
<td>Request for Proposals</td>
<td>Jan.-Feb. 2020</td>
<td>Fellows are recruited &amp; selected</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 25, 2019</strong></td>
<td>Full Proposals Due</td>
<td><strong>Sept. 2020</strong></td>
<td>Fellows begin</td>
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<td>Mid-Nov. 2019</td>
<td>Final Selection</td>
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