

Research and Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration (REALM)

Request for Applications

REALM funds collaborative research that will advance our understanding of low skilled labor migration to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. The objective is to shed light on the processes that sustain unfair practices in employing migrant labor by improving our empirical knowledge of the dynamics and mechanisms shaping recruitment for temporary work in the Gulf. REALM's substantive focus is on sending and receiving country interactions in Gulf migration flows. However, the analytical scope is expansive, ranging from individual motivations and expectations to meso-level processes of job matching and recruitment, and to the broader dynamics of labor supply and demand.

REALM welcomes proposals for empirically sound, methodologically rigorous research from a wide range of disciplines. In particular, we seek innovative ways to build data structures that can provide the foundation for robust causal inference and yield empirically grounded insights. REALM projects range from exploratory pilot studies and augmentations of existing studies to entirely new studies. In later stages, research will include a policy intervention component.

Current REALM projects include field experiments on the impact of debt relief and of information sessions, ethnographic studies of labor brokerage, and large-scale surveys on the impact of migration on sending country households. These projects capture novel information on the beginning stages of the migration process: the expectations, information, and preparations involved in out-migration. Some take as their focus the migrants themselves, while others focus on the families they leave behind.

In this second iteration of REALM funding, we are particularly seeking projects that can illuminate the structure of migrants' social contexts that span both sending and receiving countries, including informal social networks and the organizational structure of firms and recruitment agents. We are also interested in analyses of the economic and legal structures encompassing labor migration flows between sending and receiving countries, and in studies with potential for the analysis of long term life course outcomes.

Research priorities include—but are not limited to—programs that improve our understanding of the following substantive issues:

- The relationship between existing social networks at the individual, community, or regional level and migration outcomes, including reliance on the formal recruitment industry, migrant destinations, and sorting into occupations and sectors
- Historical labor flows and corresponding transformations in sending countries as context for household and individual decisions to migrate, processes of circular migration, and migrant expectations
- The co-constitution of household strategies, migration decisions, and financial behavior
- Information asymmetries and migrants' perceptions of migration costs and benefits
- The long term effects of migration on the life course, including labor market outcomes, family formation, and health
- Intra- and intergenerational processes shaping migrant experiences and decision making
- Friction in the matching of labor supply and demand
- The structure of labor recruitment, and the relationships between firms, labor brokers, financial institutions, and aspiring migrants—brokerage networks in particular
- The distribution of financial flows between migrants, middlemen, and employers in the recruitment process
- Selection mechanisms in the labor supply chain
- The interdependence of sending state managed and informal migration flows
- The interaction of sending and receiving state social, economic, and legal processes
- Sources of actors' structural power, including market position and opportunities for collective action in the recruitment process in sending countries

Special consideration will be given to projects that deeply engage one or more of the following approaches:

- Estimation of causal processes
- Studies of social networks
- Life course analysis
- Comparative studies (such as between cohorts, social groups, and countries)
- Experimental designs
- Leveraging big data, including phone networks, email, and social media

Researchers are also invited to address questions that cut across or extend beyond the themes and approaches identified above.

Overview

Who is eligible to apply?

Applications must be submitted by an individual with the authority to serve as a principal investigator, who will assume primary scholarly, administrative, and financial responsibility for the project. Those eligible to apply are: faculty members with full-time professorial titles, instructors; and officers of research.

What kinds of projects are candidates for funding?

REALM will fund a series of interlinked projects supported by an administrative and scientific core. Each research project will be independent, but bound to others by the shared purpose of understanding labor migration and recruitment to the Gulf. Research proposals should fall into one of the following categories:

1. Pilot Projects (\$10,000 to \$50,000 for up to one year)

Pilot studies will promise to break new ground in the study of labor recruitment. They will usually focus on evaluating untested methodologies, on new ways to study populations that are difficult to access, or similar situations characterized by uncertainty about viability of the research strategy but high potential to yield insights into increasing fairness in labor recruitment. Successful pilot projects will be eligible to apply for funding of a C or D type project.

2. Augmentation or extensions of existing projects (\$30,000 to \$80,000 for up to two years)

Extending or adding on to existing studies or data—for instance, adding a longitudinal component to an existing study, extending questionnaires, increasing sample sizes, or augmenting the scope of a study.

3. New Project (\$100,000 to \$500,000 for up to three years)

New projects will contribute new data and/or methodologies to the study of labor recruitment. REALM is particularly interested in investing in projects that yield new insights and strategies for intervening in the recruitment process within sending countries.

4. Intervention Project (\$10,000 to \$100,000 for up to two years)

We will consider funding rigorous scientific evaluation of real-world interventions in the recruitment process, such as projects that develop randomized control trials to measure the effect of changes in policies in sending countries. Applicants who believe they can make a strong case for an Intervention Project to be funded this round should provide justification in the letter of intent.

Timeline

February 15, 2017	Letter of Intent due at 17:00 EST
April 12, 2017	Full Applications due at 17:00 EST
July 1, 2017	Awards for Applications are announced
September 1, 2017	Start date for awarded projects

What is required to apply for funds?

I. Letter of Intent

On **Wednesday, February 15th 2017**, we are asking for:

- 1) A current copy of PI's CV
- 2) A letter of intent from the PI. The letter should be up to **2 pages** (single spaced), and include:
 - Description of intended REALM project
 - Proposed location(s) for the project
 - Broader impact of the project
 - Potential of project to contribute to existing REALM projects

CV and letter of intent should be submitted to realm-project@columbia.edu by 17:00 EST on February 15, 2017 and may be addressed to Peter Bearman.

All interested research teams must submit a letter of intent. We will contact you to submit a full proposal by February 15th, 2017

II. Full Proposal

Full proposals are by invitation only. Those invited to submit a full proposal will be asked to submit the following material no later than April 12th, 2017.

Proposal length and content differ by project type. Pilot project proposal narratives should not exceed eight pages; augmentation project proposal narratives should not exceed 10 pages, and a new project proposal narrative should not exceed 15 pages. Cover sheet, budget sheet, and biosketch templates, included at the end of this RFA, are required.

Proposal Types

Pilot Project

A completed application must include (in this order):

1. Cover Page (with institutional approval)
2. Executive Summary (**not to exceed 300 words**)
3. Budget documents
 - a. Detailed budget and narrative. Budget items should be listed by expense category (e.g., travel, equipment). Please see the budget preparation instructions attached.
 - b. Description of any other funds expected or received for this project
4. Narrative (**not to exceed eight pages**) describing:
 - a. Project,
 - b. Project timeline (including design phase)
 - c. Description of the full-scale research or intervention project (**at least one page**),
 - d. Proposed partners and participants and their commitments,
 - e. Contributions to prior work
 - f. Broader impact, and
 - g. Potential of project to contribute to other REALM projects
5. Letters of support (as appropriate)
 - a. from collaborating faculty or institutions, describing their commitments
6. Data security plan
7. Principal Investigator and co-PI's Bio Sketches (**not to exceed 3 pages each**)
 - a. Personal statement
 - b. Positions and honors
 - c. Selected peer-reviewed publications
 - d. Research support

Augmentation Project

A completed application must include (in this order):

1. Cover Page (with institutional approval)
2. Executive Summary (**not to exceed 500 words**)
3. Budget documents
 - a. Detailed budget and narrative. Budget items should be listed by expense category (e.g., travel, equipment). Please see the budget preparation instructions attached.
 - b. Description of any other funds expected or received for this project
4. Narrative (**not to exceed ten pages**) describing:
 - a. Project,
 - b. Project timeline (including design phase)
 - c. Detailed description of the existing study (**three to four pages**),
 - d. Proposed partners and participants and their commitments,
 - e. Contributions to prior work
 - f. Broader impact, and
 - g. Potential of project to contribute to other REALM projects
5. Letters of support (as appropriate)
 - a. from collaborating faculty or institutions, describing their commitments
6. Data security plan
7. Principal Investigator and co-PI's Bio Sketches (**not to exceed 3 pages each**)
 - a. Personal statement
 - b. Positions and honors
 - c. Selected peer-reviewed publications
 - d. Research support

New Project

A completed application must include (in this order):

1. Cover Page (with institutional approval)
2. Executive Summary (**not to exceed 500 words**)
3. Budget documents
 - a. Detailed budget and narrative. Budget items should be listed by expense category (e.g., travel, equipment). Please see the budget preparation instructions attached.
 - b. Description of any other funds expected or received for this project
4. Narrative (**not to exceed fifteen pages**) describing:
 - a. Project,
 - b. Project timeline (including design phase)
 - c. Proposed partners and participants and their commitments,
 - d. Contributions to prior work
 - e. Broader impact, and
 - f. Potential of project to contribute to other REALM projects
5. Letters of support (as appropriate)
 - a. from collaborating faculty or institutions, describing their commitments
6. Data security plan
7. Principal Investigator and co-PI's Bio Sketches (**not to exceed 3 pages each**)
 - a. Personal statement
 - b. Positions and honors
 - c. Selected peer-reviewed publications
 - d. Research support

Intervention Project

A completed application must include (in this order):

1. Cover Page (with institutional approval)
2. Executive Summary (**not to exceed 500 words**)
3. Budget documents
 - a. Detailed budget and narrative. Budget items should be listed by expense category (e.g., travel, equipment). Please see the budget preparation instructions attached.
 - b. Description of any other funds expected or received for this project
4. Narrative (**not to exceed fifteen pages**) describing:
 - a. Project,
 - b. Project timeline (including design phase)
 - c. Proposed partners and participants and their commitments,
 - d. Contributions to prior work
 - e. Broader impact, and
 - f. Potential of project to contribute to other REALM projects
 - g. Justification for undertaking an Intervention project
5. Letters of support (as appropriate)
 - a. from collaborating faculty or institutions, describing their commitments
6. Data security plan
7. Principal Investigator and co-PI's Bio Sketches (**not to exceed 3 pages each**)
 - a. Personal statement
 - b. Positions and honors
 - c. Selected peer-reviewed publications
 - d. Research support

How will proposals be reviewed?

Proposals will be reviewed by the REALM program committee. Funding will be subject to approval by the advisory board. External advisors may be consulted in any stage of the review process where appropriate.

As REALM-funded projects will be substantively interlinked, it is difficult to predict the number of awards that will be made in this round.

Conditions of Award

Collaboration

REALM is a collaborative research project. REALM projects share data and administrative support arising from scientific and administrative cores and are expected to contribute to shared intellectual infrastructure with respect to the development and use of instruments, questionnaires, survey protocols, and preliminary findings. To facilitate this exchange, REALM Principal Investigators are expected to attend a mandatory two-day workshop each year in Abu Dhabi. REALM will cover workshop expenses for one PI per project, and investigators should include these workshops in their budgets.

Audits

REALM anticipates and has budgeted for an annual audit of all REALM projects, by REALM personnel. These audits will be site-based and REALM investigators will need to ensure that their protocols, data, and financial records are easily accessible. For projects in the field, REALM anticipates field-based audits. In all cases, continued funding is conditional on the audit report(s).

Reporting

Semi annual progress reports and financial reports are due 30 days after each six-month grant period. Final reports are due 90 days after the completion of the grant. Reports should include all publications and scientific achievements in addition to financial data. Any changes in the composition of the research group should be identified.

Public Access Data

REALM researchers are expected to place all of their data in the public domain one year after the completion of their project. Where public access to data compromises individual confidentiality or could threaten (through deductive disclosure of individual identity) confidentiality or risks reputational harm to individuals or institutions, REALM researchers are expected to work with the REALM scientific core to provide aggregated data that serves to advance science without attendant risks.

Human Subjects Research Approval

Applicants shall not perform or oversee research involving human subjects without prior approval of their own Institutional Review Board (IRB). Investigators agree to use their best

efforts to protect the privacy of human subjects, and to maintain strict confidentiality regarding individual's private health information. In order to receive funding for the onsite Implementation phase applicants must provide NYUAD proof of an institutional IRB approval before being granted a "notice to proceed" document. Applicants who do not have access to an IRB in their host institution should seek an independent IRB. Please refer to the [REALM FAQ](#) page for further information.

Publications

All scientific products arising from REALM projects should be submitted to the REALM scientific core at the time of submission. All REALM projects will be required to acknowledge funding support. A statement will be provided to Awardees.

Submission Instructions: Electronic Submission

Submit the application as a single PDF file containing all required items for the application, along with the Application form no later than 17:00 EST on April 12th, 2017, either electronically or by mail.

Submit applications to:

Charlotte Wang

Project Manager, REALM
INCITE

Knox Hall MC 9649

606 W. 122nd Street

New York, NY 10027

realm-project@columbia.edu

+1 212 854 3440

Program Officer Contact Information

Please contact REALM program officers for administrative support for applications and budget preparation. If applicants have any questions about the content and preparation of PDF file attachments, they should contact one of the following officers.

Questions on application content should be directed to:

Charlotte Wang

Project Manager, REALM

realm-project@columbia.edu

Questions on budget preparation or terms of proposed agreement should be directed to:

Esraa Bani

Project Coordinator, REALM

realm-project@nyu.edu

+971 2 628 5292

Request for Proposals for Research and Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration (REALM)
Columbia University
New York University Abu Dhabi

Proposal Cover Page

RFA Issue Date: December 6, 2016
RFA Due Date: April 12, 2017

Project Title: _____

Principal Investigator

(individual assuming primary scholarly, administrative and financial responsibility for project)

Name:

Title:

School(s):

Department/Division/Center/Institute(s):

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

Funding Request

Type of Grant Requested:

___ Pilot Project Grant (\$10,000 to \$50,000 for a period of no longer than one-year; non-renewable)

___ Augmentation Project Grant (\$30,000 to \$80,000 over a period of up to two years)

___ New Project Grant (\$100,000 to \$500,000 over a period of up to three years)

___ Intervention Project Grant (\$10,000 to \$100,000 over a period of up to three years)

Dates of Period of Support (mm/dd/yyyy): From / / through / /

Academic Unit to Receive Funds:

Total Amount of Funds Requested: _____

Funds Requested for Year 1: \$ _____

Funds Requested for Year 2: \$ _____

Funds Requested for Year 3: \$ _____

Official Signing for the applicant organization

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Signature: _____ Date _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Principal Investigators and other significant contributors.

Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED THREE PAGES.

NAME

POSITION TITLE

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	MM/ YY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

Honors

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications

D. Research Support

Research and Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration (REALM)

Budget Table & Justification Instructions

All expenses included in the budget table must be itemized and explained in detail on the Budget Justification Narrative. A list of all personnel, their level of effort, salary and any fringe benefits must be included. Additionally, all rates (fringe benefits, consultant fees...etc) must be explained and justified.

Note: The budget must be prepared in U.S. dollars and itemized using the Excel spreadsheet attached.

Please follow the following format for your budget narrative.

A. Personnel

List the names of PI(s), faculty, and other personnel associated directly with the application organization who will devote effort towards the project.

Salary: Please identify each personnel's role on the project. Estimate person-months commitment. Then, calculate the total salary that will be charged to the grant for each personnel.

Fringe: If the applicant's usual accounting practices provide that its contributions to employee benefits be treated as direct costs, funds may be requested to fund fringe benefits as direct costs. Otherwise please enter \$0.

B. Consultant

Identify consultant(s), advisor(s), contractor(s), or any other individual(s) who are **not** associated directly with the applicant's host institution who will devote effort towards the project.

List their name, expertise, primary organization affiliation, daily compensation rate, estimated days of service and travel including per-diem costs (*if applicable*).

Justify details of this budget.

C. Equipment

Items of property that have an acquisition cost of **\$3,000 or more** (*unless host organization has established lower levels*) and an expected service life of more than one year is considered capital equipment (or permanent equipment).

Items of needed equipment must be listed individually by description and cost, including tax.

Allowable items ordinarily will be limited to research equipment and apparatus not already available for the conduct of the study.

General-purpose equipment, such as a personal computers or iPads, are not eligible for support unless primarily or exclusively used in the actual conduct of scientific research. General-purpose equipment need to be adequately justified and will be thoroughly reviewed.

D. Supplies

This budget must indicate the general types of expendable materials and supplies required, with their estimated costs.

Please break down the types of supplies required, estimate costs and justify.

E. Travel

Travel and its relation to the proposed project activities must be specified and itemized. Funds may be requested for field work, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel associated with the proposed project work, including per diem costs.

List the purpose, number of people, country of origin and destination, duration of trip (*in days*), cost of flight(s)/accommodation(s), and per-diem.

REALM will reimburse economy class tickets for research-related travel and for mandatory workshop attendance. It will also cover \$150 USD per day for the cost of accommodation, up to \$200 for airport transfers, and \$100 per diem expenses. Please remember to include workshop expenses in your budget.

F. Subawards

List any subawards or subcontracts to other organizations/institutions that will be charged to the grant.

If you have not yet identified them but intend to issue a subaward, list it as “to be determined”.

Attach a complete budget for each subaward and justify details.

G. Other Expenses

Any other direct costs not specified in Lines A through F must be identified in section G.

These costs might include cost of Publication, Documentation, Dissemination, Service charges, construction of equipment or systems, translation, transcription, space rental at research establishments away from applicant host institution or Participant Incentives.

Such costs must be itemized and justified in the budget narrative.

H. Direct Cost

List the total of all direct cost items listed in A through G.

I. Indirect Cost

Funder restrictions prevent any indirect costs or administrative fees to be included in your budget and no project with either an administrative fee or indirect cost charge will be funded.

However, if there are administrative costs relevant to the execution of your project (*administrator effort, supplies, office space, IT/technical support, et cetera*), these expenses can be captured in your direct cost budget with appropriate justification for how these expenses help you to achieve the aims of your proposed project.

Total Costs for Entire Proposed Project

On the last line, enter the total amount of funds requested by the applicant. This amount will be the same as the amount entered on Line H.

RESEARCH & EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF LABOR MIGRATION (REALM)				
<i>[Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial]</i>				
Budget Category Totals	Total Cost Year 1 Budget Period	Total Cost year 2 Budget Period	Total Cost Year 3 Budget Period	Total Cost for Entire Proposed Budget Period for Each Category
A. PERSONNEL: <i>Salary and fringe Benefits. Applicant institution only</i>	1	1	1	0
B. CONSULTANT COSTS				0
C. EQUIPMENT				0
D. SUPPLIES				0
E. TRAVEL				0
F. SUBAWARDS				0
G. OTHER EXPENSES				0
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS*	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE PROPOSED PROJECT				0