



NSF IRES: International Research Experience in Kenya

University of Florida's Rinker School of Building Construction

(<http://www.bcn.ufl.edu>) is pleased to invite applications into its National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored International Research Experience in Africa. The program will support 5 students to undertake 8 to 10 weeks of high quality research in Construction Technologies within the Kenyan context. Students will be selected based on a competitive application process. Interested students should prepare an application package adhering to the guidelines provided below by **February 20th 2009**.

Eligibility

Application is limited to US Citizens and Permanent Residents. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a full-time degree program in the US and will be graduating no earlier than Fall 2009.

Program Terms and Condition

- Students **MUST** participate in all organized program activities including a pre-departure boot camp in March and April 2009.
- Students will be required to register for independent studies academic credits during the Fall semester. During this time each student will work with the investigators to develop the research findings into technical reports and journal papers.
- Each student will also be expected to present the results of their research to selected audiences upon their return to the US.

Financial Support

The program will cover the expenses associated with the International Research Experience. This includes round trip airfare to Africa, accommodation, ground transportation in the host country, and supplies. Students will also receive a \$3200 stipend part of which will be issued upon the fulfillment of all project requirements.

Research Focus

The theme of this program is optimizing the performance of building systems in Kenya and will make a contribution to the Green Building Agenda. The key elements identified for the research are: water supply, thermal comfort as it relates to passive heating and cooling, building materials and solar power. Students will research on selected building technologies based on knowledge gained about the local context through research collaboration with a host institution and then collectively design, engineer, and **MUST** construct a demonstration unit that exemplifying the use of these approaches.

Application Process

The application package must also include the following information:

- Applicant information (name, major, expected graduation date, institution, e-mail);
- Brief (500 word max.) statement of your research topic and long term professional plans;
- Resume or summary of relevant experience;
- Contact details for two faculty members willing to provide references;
- A copy of your transcript.

The application package should include a cover letter which responds to the following questions:

- What is your motivation for applying to this program?
- What are your short term, medium term and long term professional goals?
- How will the program help you attain these goals?
- If selected, what intellectual contributions will you make to the program?

Applications should be submitted by email with "IRES 2009" in the subject line obonyo@ufl.edu or ries@ufl.edu on or before 5.00pm **February 20th 2009**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified by **March 1st 2009**.

