SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY and INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Request for Proposals (RfP)
to the International School Psychology Research Initiative

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS
Proposal Deadline: December 1, 2023

The SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (SSSP) and the INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (ISPA) invite proposals by international researchers to investigate important school psychology topics within or beyond the researcher's home country or region. ISPA and SSSP have formed an inter-organizational *International Initiatives Committee* (IIC) to solicit and review proposals for possible funding of one grant annually of up to $10,000 for proposals that are limited to the researcher's home country, or $15,000 if the proposals involve multiple countries. Like other SSSP awards, this award does not support indirect costs (IDC) or other overhead costs.

The **purposes** of the International School Psychology Research Initiative are as follows:
- to encourage international research on important topics related to school psychology;
- to encourage international practice-based research that may lead to research-based practice;
- to provide professional and financial support that builds capacity for school psychological research within countries outside the United States; and
- to disseminate international research through publications and other presentations.

Eligibility. Principal investigators must:
- be residents of a country other than the United States;
- have their primary professional affiliation with school/educational psychology; and
- be affiliated with a non-profit organization, public or private institution (including schools), or institution of higher education.
- Any members of the research team (i.e., PI, consultants, mentor) who has a real or potential conflict of interest (COI) must submit a COI management plan. The COI management plan is not subject to the RfP page limits.

The following are restrictions related to principal investigators and to the proposed study:
- Students may not be principal investigators;
- Funds cannot be used to support thesis or dissertation completion;
- Current officers of ISPA and SSSP cannot be principal investigators or collaborators;

RfP – ISPRI

- Members of the *International Initiatives Committee* cannot be principal investigators or collaborators;
- Residents of the United States cannot be principal investigators or co-investigators; and
- It is strongly suggested that each submission include an SSSP member as a sponsor/mentor. Please contact Bonnie K. Nastasi, PhD (bnastasi@tulane.edu), International Initiatives Committee Chair for further information about selecting a sponsor/mentor.

Award Priorities. Priority will be given to proposals
- for worthy projects that may not be possible without this financial support;
- for a specific research project involving ISPA-affiliated collaborators across multiple countries;
- from researchers or research teams that include both university-based professionals and applied practitioners;
- from researchers from a country or region in which little prior school psychology research has been conducted;
- that show promise for developing a viable and sustained research agenda; and
- that show promise for significant contributions to the profession of school psychology through its literature.

Nature and Scope of Project. Successful International School Psychology Research Initiative proposals will generally fall into one of the following three categories:

Category 1. Scientific and applied contributions to school psychology
a. explore important scientific and applied issues in a different way or offer new perspectives on a longstanding issue;
b. provide new summaries of research on important scientific and applied topics;
c. produce empirical results that have important scientific and applied value; and/or
d. examine relations between practice and scholarly foundations of school psychology.

Category 2. Applications of scientific knowledge to school psychology practice
a. develop a theoretical framework for evaluating meaningful practical questions;
b. develop education and training models rooted in theory and research;
c. evaluate assessment and intervention techniques, service outcomes, or other practice activities;

    d. describe the characteristics and qualifications of school psychologists, roles, functions, populations served, or funding as a foundation for subsequent work force development and professional advances; and/or

    e. synthesize research on an important practice issue to promote a better understanding of that issue.

Category 3. Development of scientific aspects of school psychology as a profession

    a. explore ways to enable practitioners to integrate research activities within the context of their work; and/or

    b. apply psychological methods and theory to address education and public policy issues regarding the practice of school psychology.

Finances. Approved projects will be funded for one year. Maximum funding will not exceed $10,000 U.S. for research within a single country, and $15,000 for research involving more than one country. A budget justification included with the proposal should explain how expenses are necessary to the successful completion of the research project.

Funds may be used for various expenses related to research. Examples of allowable expenses include (a) access to references and other sources (e.g., PsychInfo), (b) license for SPSS or other data analysis packages, (c) mail and telephone expenses, (d) test acquisition and adaptation, (e) translation services, (f) travel required for data collection, (g) high-speed internet service, and (h) payments to students for prescribed tasks at the university or agency's normal hourly rate. Up to $2000 can be budgeted for travel by investigators to the annual ISPA conference to present research results. Investigators may also apply to other agencies or organizations for financial support; SSSP will consider jointly funded projects that receive financial support from other organizations.

Funds may **<u>not</u>** be used for salary support, stipends, overhead or indirect costs (IDC) and honoraria for principal investigators, collaborators, or other members of the research team. Funds may not be used for major equipment purchases (e.g., computers or video equipment), local travel, or graduate assistantships. However, student research assistants may be employed and paid for prescribed tasks at a university's or agency's normal hourly rate.

Successful applicants must acknowledge funding by the SSSP/ISPA International School Psychology Research Initiative in all publications, presentations, or dissemination of the research supported by the grant. Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to submit

manuscripts for publication of the research results in the *Journal of School Psychology, International Journal of School & Educational Psychology, World Go Round,* and *Communique* and are expected to present results at annual ISPA conferences.

A Final Report that summarizes the activities and results of funded projects will be required from the principal investigators within six months of completion of the grant year and possibly in a subsequent year to provide evidence of longer-term project outcomes. A template of the Final Report is included at the end of this RfP. The Final Report should be submitted as PDF attachments to the SSSP's Director for Research and Scientific Practice (dirofresearch.sssp@gmail.com).

APPLICATIONS

Applicants must submit a proposal with the ten sections described below. The principal investigator's administrative head or organizational authority must provide a letter of endorsement indicating the extent to which internal support will be provided to facilitate the conduct of the proposed research. If collaborators include external agencies, a letter of endorsement from the agency must be included.

Proposals must be submitted by December 1, 2023. The proposal must be submitted electronically in a single PDF document to the Chair of the International Initiatives Committee via an e-mail attachment (bnastasi@tulane.edu). Sections 2-7 of the application must be no more than 10 pages, double spaced, with one-inch margins and 12-point or 14-point font size. Appendices can include information for Sections 1, 8, 9, and 10 and references; these materials do not count toward the 10-page limitation.

Applications should be organized into the following sections:

1. *Title Page:* This page should include the title of the study; the principal investigator/co-principal investigator(s); the sponsor/mentor (must be a member of the SSSP), their affiliation(s), and contact information (i.e., postal and email addresses, phone number); and the names, affiliations, and email addresses of all collaborators; and total requested budget.

Overview of the Project (1/2 page)*:* Describe the major activities and intended outcomes of the project.

RfP – ISPRI

2. *Scientific Rationale for Proposal* (1 to 4 pages): Describe the research questions to be addressed, hypotheses to be tested, and goals or intended outcomes of the project. Provide the theoretical, empirical, and/or logical rationale for these questions, hypotheses, and goals. Describe the research design, participants, measures or variables, and analyses. Either quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method research projects may be proposed. Provide the rationale for the research methods that will be used. Previous literature, theoretical frameworks, pilot studies, and other activities that provide promising results and qualitative perspectives can be used to build this rationale.

3. *Match to purpose and priorities of the initiative:* Discuss how the proposed research is compatible with the purposes of the SSSP/ISPA International School Psychology Research Initiative that are described on page 1 of this announcement. Explain how the project meets one or more of the priorities listed on page 2. Describe specific ways in which this research builds capacity within the country for future research and the development of school psychology as a profession. Describe this research's potential for sustainability. For projects that involve more than one country explain how administrative and financial differences across the involved countries will be reconciled. Researchers must ensure that their proposals are consistent with professional codes of ethics (i.e., APA, NASP, Declaration of Helsinki Ethical Principles).

4. *Availability of other sources of funding*: Discuss any other available sources of funds and describe how other resources will be acquired and used to help support important goals of this research.

5. *Impact:* Specify possible short- and long-term impacts this research will have on school psychology practices and scholarship.

6. *Operational Plan:* Provide a detailed operational plan with a timeline that integrates rationale, purpose, activities, person(s) responsible for the activities, benchmarks for success in meeting project goals, including evaluation plan.

7. *Personnel:* Briefly describe the qualifications of the person(s) responsible for project activities and the SSSP sponsor/mentor. The plan should specify how the SSSP member with expertise in the applicant's area of interest and/or research methodology has worked with the applicant to enhance the research proposal. Examples of these activities include brainstorming (a) methodological questions and design

considerations; (b) implementation, data collection/analysis, and pragmatic issues; and (c) program evaluation methods.

Attach brief curriculum vitae (up to 3 pages) as an appendix for the key person(s) responsible for project activities, including the sponsor/mentor (vitae pages do not count against page limits).

8. *Budget:* Provide detailed estimates of funds that will be used for: (a) student hourly payments or stipends/honoraria for research participants, (b) supplies, (c) data processing, (d) equipment (major equipment purchases excluded), (e) travel for data collection or to the annual ISPA conference, and (f) other expenses (specify). [Refer to 'Finances' section of this announcement for eligible expenses.] Any unspent funds that remain after the term of the award must be returned to the SSSP. Please contact the SSSP Treasurer to facilitate the transfer of unexpended funds (treasurer.sssp@gmail.com).

10. *Letters:* Include all letters of support or agreements to participate from endorsers, participating organizations, collaborators, and others. The sponsor/mentor letter should clearly indicate the role of the sponsor/mentor and not simply read as a letter of support.

Criteria for Review of Proposals

30 points: Importance of the scientific rationale for the research project, the quality of the research design, and the relation to purposes of the International School Psychology Research Initiative (described on page 1.)

20 points: Match to the award priorities of the International School Psychology Research Initiative (described on pages 1-2) as these relate to strengthening research collaborations, creating a strong international foundation for school psychological research, and supporting the emergence of research where it has previously not occurred.

20 points: Operational plan, including a detailed timeline and benchmarks for success and specification of the mentor's activities.

20 points: Personnel and agency or institutional capabilities; qualifications of principal investigator/Co-PI.

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10 points: Quality of budget including effective use of funds, and realistic appraisal of probable costs.

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Review Procedures

Members of the *International Initiatives Committee* will review all proposals. The *International Initiatives Committee* will evaluate proposals using the Criteria for Review of Proposals. Any committee member with a potential conflict of interest will not participate in the review process for that application. Final recommendations will be based on reviewers' consensus or majority vote.

The Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the SSSP Director of Research and Scientific Practice and inform the ISPA Executive Committee, which will consider the Committee's recommendations and determine final approval of projects to be funded. Applicants can expect to receive this information approximately three months after the submission deadline.

Proposals for the SSSP/ISPA International School Psychology Research Initiative must be submitted via e-mail to:
Bonnie K. Nastasi, PhD, Chair, IIC
Email: bnastasi@tulane.edu

Please contact Dr. Nastasi if you have further questions.

RfP – ISPRI

SSSP/ISPA International Research Awards Final Report Form

Principal Investigator(s):			
Sponsor/Mentor:			
Project Title:			
Amount Awarded:			
Beginning Date for Award		Ending Date for Award	

State in clear, non-technical terms the accomplishments, findings, or discoveries that resulted from this project (500 words or less):

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As a result of this award, what additional funding have you received or requested, directly or indirectly?					
Sponsor	From (Date)	To (Date)	Type (Cash/In Kind)	Amount	Status (Received/ Requested/ Anticipated)

How many different publications have resulted from this project?					
Category	In Preparation	Submitted	Accepted	Published* (Citations Below)	Invited
Refereed Journals					
Conference Proceedings					
Technical Reports					
Book/Book Chapters					
Other					
*For the publications enumerated above, provide full citations:					

How many different presentations have resulted from this project?				
Conference	In Preparation	Submitted	Accepted	Invited

List theses or dissertations that resulted from the project together with the name of the author.

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List any courses taught with emphasis on your research subject area that have been impacted by this project and your participation.

Survey Questions:

a) **Did anyone in your administration/department encourage you to submit a pre-proposal/proposal in this competition?**

Answer Here (X)	
	Yes, Strongly
	Yes
	No
	I was discouraged from submitting a proposal.

b) **Do you have any suggestions to improve the following:**

Suggested program submission improvements:
Suggested proposal process improvements:
Suggested proposal review improvements:
Suggested post-award management improvements: