

The Russian Academic Network Building, Education and Exposure Program (NBEE)

Call for Applications

I. Program Snapshot

Eligible Applicants:	Russian PhD students, specializing in natural sciences or engineering
Competition Opens:	Friday, March 4, 2016
Application Deadline:	Monday, April 4, 2016 (23:59 Moscow time)
Announcement of Results:	June 2016
Program Scope:	Short-term networking and exposure visits for Russian PhD students to travel internationally to attend scientific conferences in order to present research findings. Travel may also include laboratory exposure tours, participation in academic seminars, and/or meetings with potential research collaborators.
Length of Travel:	Approximately 10-14 day visits
Complete Competition Announcement:	http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/current-funding-opportunities
How to Apply:	All applications documents must be submitted to CRDF Global Moscow office. Electronic version of the application form must be sent by e-mail, and a hardcopy of a Personal Data Consent Form must be sent via regular mail. For more information and instructions please refer to Section VII .
Please note that participation in the NBEE Program is dependent on the grantee's ability to obtain a U.S. B-1 visa (if traveling to the U.S.) or equivalent, if applicable/traveling to other countries. As the visa application process is unpredictable in duration, CRDF Global is looking to fund grantees to travel to conference and exposure activities scheduled to take place between September 2016 - February 2017. All grantees are expected to be flexible about travel dates due to potential visa delays.	

II. Background

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources, training, and services. CRDF Global's Research Partnerships network building programs enable cross-border collaboration and the strengthening of international research by creating opportunities for scientists to meet and discuss the latest developments in their field. Research partnerships open avenues for new research directions and foster new collaborative opportunities for U.S. and non-U.S. scientists. More information about CRDF Global and Research Partnerships can be found at <http://www.crdfglobal.org>.

As part of its efforts to promote and support international collaboration in science and technology, CRDF Global is pleased to announce the 2016 Russian Academic Network Building, Education and Exposure Program (NBEE) that aims to create opportunities and environment for building research relationships and encourage academic exchange between Russian PhD students, and the U.S. and international science community.

CRDF Global will support grants for Russian PhD students to travel to the U.S. or Europe for 10-14 days to participate in short-term, planned and specific academic network building activities. During their visits, selected Russian PhD students will present their latest research to a wide audience, enrich their scientific knowledge by attending conferences and seminars and encounter opportunities to establish new contacts in their field.

Upon return to Russia, these PhD students will be in a better position to initiate and sustain long-term research collaborations that will build on the already strong relationship that exist between American and Russian scientists, and will lead to important innovations of the future. CRDF Global recognizes that as leaders in the field of natural sciences and engineering, the U.S., Europe and Russia must continue and enhance vital collaboration in order to solve the world's most pressing problems of environmental sustainability, health promotion and disease prevention, and the alleviation of poverty through technological development.

III. Eligibility

This program focuses specifically on PhD students in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, earth sciences/geology, mathematics, and physics) and engineering disciplines. Applications will only be accepted from Russian students currently enrolled in a PhD program at a university.

Eligible Applicant must:

- Be a **citizen and a permanent resident of the Russian Federation**;
- Have **advanced proficiency in English** (focus on strong speaking skills to communicate directly with peers in the U.S. and Europe);
- Be enrolled **as a PhD student** at a university in the Russian Federation **both at the application submission deadline and after the proposed travel***;
- Provide **an institutional approval** (Application Form signed by an authorized institution representative) for the applicant to participate in the program for 10-14 days during the program dates, if awarded;
- Submit **an approval from their supervisors** (Letter of Support) along with their application.

**Please note that eligible applicants cannot have defended their dissertations prior to traveling under this program.*

CRDF Global reserves the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in its programs. CRDF Global complies with all U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to export control and the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in its activities.

It is the policy of CRDF Global not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities without appropriate authorization from the U.S. Government.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals from Russian PhD students should include all requested information and will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below. In the event of an award, CRDF Global will use the proposal narrative as the basis for building the participant's final itinerary.

Travel Objectives. Application presents clear, measurable objectives that align with competition goals.

Benefit to education or professional experience. Application demonstrates how the grant specifically contributes to furthering the applicant's current scientific aspirations.

Travel Plan. Travel plan and subsequent activities are well-researched and soundly justified to support broader research goals.

Secondary Criteria: The primary factor that will determine selection of a participant will be establishing new professional relationships and furthering knowledge in the research field, however, in cases where two or more applications are of equal merit, special consideration will be given to applicants, who:

- Submitted abstracts for oral or poster presentation at their selected conference and received confirmation of acceptance from conference organizers
- Possess advanced English speaking skills as assessed in an English interview with CRDF Global
- Best demonstrate a plan to share knowledge with his or her peers upon return to Russia.

All applications and information contained therein will remain confidential prior to the award and will be screened for eligibility and completeness upon receipt by CRDF Global. All eligible proposals will be evaluated against the Evaluation Criteria listed above. CRDF Global will announce results via e-mail and all decisions are final. All awards are subject to the availability of funding.

V. Program

Program Goals

Applicants will participate in the NBEE program to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- Increase science collaboration between Russia PhD students and international scientists through short-term visits, conferences, and publications;
- Develop skills necessary to successfully present research at an international conference;
- Gain exposure to best practices, laboratory methodologies and project management skills from leading U.S. or European scientists;
- Build professional networks to foster future cooperation, including joint proposals for future funding.

CRDF Global will support short-term, planned, and specific scientific exposure and academic network building activities. Applicants must propose attendance at one scientific conference in the U.S. or Europe as well as at least one additional activity. Applicants are encouraged to select proposed activities based on their research goals, and specific needs. Strong consideration will be given to applicants who take initiative and demonstrate a strong drive to connect with the international scientific community.

To the best of our ability, CRDF Global will build participants' programs in accordance with the submitted proposal. However, *CRDF Global does not guarantee participation in all proposed activities. The final program/agenda will be arranged at CRDF Global's discretion with equal consideration to the applicant's proposal, travel feasibility, visa timeline and best interest of grantee.*

Eligible Types of Activities:

All proposals must identify and include at least one international scientific conference in the U.S. or Europe. Additional conferences may be proposed as secondary activities as long as the applicant provides separate, distinct justifications for attendance at each conference.

Conferences

The main purposes of conference attendance will be to enrich scientific knowledge; establish new professional linkages with researchers; give an oral presentation; present research findings in a poster presentation, and seek new project collaboration opportunities.

Education

Include *pre- and post-conference workshops*; a short academic or theoretical course; professional development training (e.g. grant writing, scientific publication training), etc.

Exposure Visits to U.S. or European Universities or Research Institutions:

Exposure visits to the U.S. universities or research institutions will be comprised of laboratory tours; meetings with individual experts in your field; sharing a presentation of your work with professors and students; observing and participating in classroom lectures and seminars, and research collaboration meetings with potential stakeholders and collaborators.

Please note that during these visits, the participants will not be able to do any hands-on work (e.g., perform experiments) on university property.

Other activities not included above will be considered if applicants demonstrate their relevance to the program's goals and objectives.

Assistance from CRDF Global:

- Grants are contingent upon successful matching between a prospective grantee and an appropriate U.S. conference and exposure visit sites. CRDF Global has an extensive network of scientists, experts, labs and other research facilities in the U.S. or Europe and will match selected grantees' areas of expertise to relevant research facilities for exposure visits in the U.S. or Europe.
- CRDF Global will make all necessary travel arrangements and accommodations (itineraries, travel expenses, lodging) for selected grantees for the duration of travel

VI. CRDF GLOBAL Expectation of Grantees

Once selected, grantees are expected to:

- Work with CRDF Global in a flexible manner to confirm travel program details
- Prepare for travel by submitting an abstract and designing a high quality poster presentation and/or oral presentation to share at conference or academic visit
- Hold a valid passport that will not expire for at least 6 months after proposed travel dates
- Apply for a U.S. or European visa as quickly as possible once travel dates are set
- Comply with all NBEE Program regulations before and during travel
- Understand that a primary goal of your travel is to meet new people and discuss research project ideas with new contacts, as such a high level of social effort is expected throughout your travel
- Submit a final trip report within 30 days of returning to Russia
- Participate in a survey approximately 6 months after program participation

VII. Submission Instructions

Application documents must be submitted to the CRDF Global Moscow
no later than **Monday, April 4, 2016 (23:59 Moscow Time)**

The following documents should be submitted to CRDF Global Moscow office as SEPARATE files

- Application Documents – all required documents submitted as email attachments, either MS Word or Adobe PDF at rmailbox@crdf.ru or Yundina@crdf.ru.
- Personal Data Consent Form (completed, dated, and signed) - scanned copy by email together with application documents at rmailbox@crdf.ru or Yundina@crdf.ru, and a hard copy (originals) by mail to: Ul. Miklukho-Maklaya 16/10, Building 32, Moscow, 117997, to the attention of Marina

Yundina. More information, **Personal Data Consent Form**¹ template, and instructions can be found on CRDF Global Russia website.

VIII. Additional Information and Support

For further information about this program, including questions about eligibility, please contact Marina Yundina, program manager at CRDF Global Moscow office by phone: +7 (495) 662-3715, ext. 135 or email: myundina@crdfglobal.org Inquiries by e-mail are strongly encouraged and will result in prompt response.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application Form
 - All fields are completed page each
 - Signed by an institution representative (an approval for the applicant to participate in the program for 10-14 days during the program dates, if awarded);
- CV
 - Should not exceed four pages in length; applicant should emphasis publications, domestic, regional, and international conferences attended, and any experience with international collaborations
- Letter of Support (LOS)
 - A Letter of Support (LOS) on institution letterhead from the applicant's direct supervisor highlighting the position and expertise of the applicant.
- Scanned Copy of the completed, dated, and signed Personal Data Consent Form.

¹ Click on the link to download the Template