



WORLD LEISURE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The World Leisure Organization (WLO) request proposals to expand its World Leisure Centers of Excellence network.

The required documentation of expertise and qualifications outlined in this request are intended to serve primarily as a general guide for each statement of qualifications, with the minimum requirements listed. Each college and/or university is expected to submit a fully detailed statement of qualifications, which adequately describes the advantages and benefits WLO would realize by selecting their institution. Through this Request for Proposal (RFP) process WLO may select multiple intuitions to establish WLCE.

Currently, the [network of the WLCE](#) is formed by [Breda University of Applied Sciences](#) (the Netherlands), [Vancouver Island University](#) (Canada), [University of Sao Paulo](#) (Brazil), [University of Otago](#) (New Zealand) and [Zhejiang University](#) (China). WLO anticipates the establishment of selective additional WLCE, especially in geographic areas without representation of such programs. However, all proposals will receive consideration by the WLO Board of Directors.



1. Intent and scope.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals is to solicit proposals from interested colleges and/or universities to establish and implement a World Leisure Center of Excellence. The World Leisure Centers of Excellence can also be a recognition for WLO of current and existing leisure field programs and scholarly activities. Only complete applications will be considered for Centers of Excellence. The rights covered under this agreement shall be for rights to the opportunities as outlined in Section 11.

2. Goals of World Leisure Organization.

As a worldwide, non-governmental voluntary organization, WLO is dedicated to discovering and fostering the conditions that enable leisure to serve as a force to optimize collective and individual well-being. More specifically, WLO through research, education, knowledge transfer and advocacy: 1) promotes leisure as integral to social, cultural and economic development; 2) supports the rights of all people to good quality leisure experiences; 3) recognizes that many people have special requirements related to disability, age, gender, social status, poverty, domicile and education; 4) acts where leisure includes play, recreation, the arts and culture, sport, festivals and celebrations, health and fitness, travel and tourism.

3. Schedule of events for the request for proposal process.

The WLCE call remains open throughout the year.

4. Notice of intent to respond.

Each college and/or university that intends to respond to this Request for Proposals must provide the following information via email to the WLO Scientific and Technical Secretariat, secretariat@worldleisure.org:

1. Name of College and/or University
2. Name of College and/or University's Primary Contact or Contacts with relation to this Request for Proposals
3. Mailing Address of Primary Contact(s)
4. Telephone Number of Primary Contact(s)
6. E-mail Address of Primary Contact(s)

5. Submission.

All Colleges and/or Universities must submit their proposals in **English** and in **Adobe PDF** to the World Leisure Secretariat, secretariat@worldleisure.org. Proposals are to be signed by an officially authorized representative of the College and/or University.

Colleges and/or Universities are expected to comply with all specifications, terms, conditions and instructions in this Request for Proposals and must furnish all required information. All proposals will be compared with the stated criteria. Multiple centres may be selected.

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically and provide a description of the College and/or University's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the current open call. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

The proposal of the successful College and/or University will be included by reference into the ensuing contract.

6. Qualifications.

- A. Host Colleges and/or Universities must be accredited and/or approved by recognized bodies such as governmental agencies.
- B. Host Colleges and/or Universities must have at least a master level program connected to the leisure field.
- C. Host Colleges and/or Universities must have demonstrated a previous and ongoing commitment to providing a leisure focused academic curriculum or have sufficient resources in terms of administrative services, faculty, and support resources to implement a new proposed, leisure-focused curriculum.
- D. WLO shall make such investigations deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Colleges and/or Universities to service the University's qualifications and sustainability.
- E. WLO reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such colleges and/or universities fails to satisfy WLO that the colleges and/or universities is properly qualified and possesses the capabilities and resources to carry out the obligations of the potential contract. In submitting a proposal, adequate information regarding these capabilities shall be provided by the colleges and/or universities.
- F. The Colleges and/or Universities shall keep informed of, and shall comply with, all applicable codes, laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and orders of the municipal, state, and federal government, or other public bodies having jurisdiction affecting this RFP.

7. Questions and comments.

Questions and comments with reference to this Request for Proposals must be directed by email to World Leisure Secretariat, Email: secretariat@worldleisure.org

8. Contract term.

The contract that results from award of rights outlined in this Request for Proposals will be for six (6) years, and with six (6) year renewal options.

9. Approval and effective date.

Universities and/or colleges submitting successful proposals will be entrusted by WLO with the right to establish a WLCE. All successful proposals must be approved by the World Leisure Board of Directors. The effective date of the contract between the successful Colleges and/or Universities and The World Leisure Organization will be the date agreed upon by the parties.

10. Negotiations.

It is the intention of WLO to enter into negotiations with the Colleges and/or Universities selected as a result of the Request for Proposal process. Colleges and/or Universities selected to participate in negotiations will be provided with an opportunity to provide a final copy of their negotiated proposal for contract purposes.

11. Rights and privileges.

WLCE shall be granted the following rights and privileges:

- Joint programmes and activities among the WLCEs.
- Access to the WLCE network worldwide and cooperate with students and faculty members in the field of leisure worldwide.
- Privileged access and involvement opportunities in WLO programmes and activities.
- Access to WLO membership to serve as faculty, consultants and resources.
- Up to 10 WL Premium Individual Memberships for leisure related department academics and research students.
- Access to scholarship programmes and opportunities for WLCE students.
- Promotional support on the WLO website and in other publications.
- Use of the WLO logo and WLCE logo
- Other rights and privileges as agreed
- Free Category – Free for students

12. Scope of services required.

WLCE Centres are organized as international post-graduate programs which offer opportunities for colleges and universities to affiliate with WLO to establish and provide English-taught graduate educational programs and research centers focused on play, recreation, the arts, culture, sport, festivals and celebrations, health and fitness, travel and tourism with an international dimension. It gives students, educators, researchers and professionals the chance to participate and contribute to uniquely theme-focused educational endeavors. The Centers will emerge as the leading source for information, research and collaboration surrounding leisure best practices.

Therefore, the Centers are not stand alone, but are explicitly willing to commit themselves to the network and provide added value to both their Universities, emerging student leaders and the global leisure studies, profession and academy. The Centers are pro-active participants in the network in order to provide faculty and students from Centers of Excellence with multiple opportunities for maximum benefit from the international network.

Current examples of joint initiatives include:

1. Student and staff exchange
2. Field trips

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3. Internship opportunities (WLO and other WLCEs)
4. Guest lectures / Visiting Scholars
5. Master classes
6. A Field School during every WLO Congress providing service to the local community
7. Collaborative research projects
8. Joint thesis supervision
9. (Joint) contribution to the World Leisure Journal

This is not an exhaustive list and creative collaboration; innovation and mutually beneficial exchange are encouraged.

12.1. Vision/Mission Statement, Program Objectives, Learning Outcomes and Benefit/Advantages

Proposal should detail department's and/or program's vision/mission statement. In addition, program objectives should be identified as well as learning outcomes. Each proposal should also detail the benefits and advantages of the institutions' offerings, human resources, physical resources/location, fiscal resources, and the other unique features such as experiential learning opportunities, department or program affiliations, etc.

12.2. Proposed Curriculum Theme and Focus

Proposals must include a draft outline of the projected and existing academic program (one or more than one) theme and focus related to leisure. WLO seeks curriculum proposals that link leisure to such academic areas as social and cultural programming, community recreation development, youth development, event management, natural resource management, tourism, therapeutic recreation, economics, sociology, social psychology, psychology and others.

In addition, proposals must include a draft outline of the curriculum including English-taught course titles and descriptions. Also, proposals must provide information regarding the programs time frame and sequencing of course work. Program proposals may be designed to reflect a one-year or two-year commitment on the part of students. Further, the proposal should include target number of students to be recruited. Special attention should be given to specific research and service areas to be implemented by the proposed WLCE department or programmes.

12.3. Faculty/Staffing Patterns

Proposals must include information regarding faculty and staffing patterns including the curriculum vita of primary administrators. The curriculum vita should include references of experience, and supervision experience, publications, grants, research, etc. in a maximum of four (4) pages. Strategies for recruiting faculty on an international basis must be included in each proposal. Such strategies may involve retaining faculty members to provide instruction on an adjunct short-term basis. Any recognized anti-discrimination policies should be submitted within the application documentation.

12.4. Center/ Department/ Program Governance

The administrative location of the center/department/program shall be identified in each proposal including an organizational chart of the institution and the placement of the proposed program inside the existing structure.

Proposals regarding the governance and oversight activities must include the establishment of a Committee. The Committee shall be established at the selected institution to coordinate the overall cooperation between WLO and the parties involved in the establishment of the program. The focus is on co-operation in general, i.e. projects, relationship between WLO representatives and institutions faculty and staff. The Committee will send an annual report to WLO no later than two months after the end of the academic year.

12.5. Added value to the network

Proposals must provide commitment to further develop the Centers of Excellence network and demonstrate the potential added value to the network. The purpose of the Centre of Excellence program is not self-serving but must be network focused and driven.

12.6. Scholarship Programs and Recruitment Plan

In addition, proposals must include strategies for establishing and supporting scholarships, assistantships and funds for research projects as well as plans for recruiting students. A commitment and demonstration to internationalization of all aspects related to the centre and the university department would be highly appreciated.

12.7. Proposed Business Plan

Proposals to establish a WLCE program must include a business plan addressing the following elements:

- a) budget identifying funding sources and potential expenditures;
- b) a statement acknowledging that all financial liabilities for the WLCE programmes are the responsibilities of host university and/or college;
- c) confirmation of the requirement for reporting program statements annually following the conclusion of the academic year.

13. Fee requirements.

The host institution will pay an **annual fee** of **\$5,000 USD** to WLO.

WLO will establish an **Evaluation Committee** that will visit each of the potential Centers of Excellence to assess the proposals submitted. The cost of such visits will be covered by the potential Center of Excellence.

14. Contact information.

WLO Scientific and Technical Secretariat, Calle Arenal 1, Segunda Planta, 48005 Bilbao, Spain.

Email: secretariat@worldleisure.org

