PROPOSAL WRITING
FOR THE TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

A WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING A COMPELLING PROJECT PROPOSAL
RSVP here: bit.ly/Tfproposal
Contact: annette.wu@yale-nus.edu.sg

FRIDAY 9 FEB, 1-2PM CIPE CONFERENCE ROOM
What Else is Valuable About This Process?

• Planning, research and outreach
• Writing process can reveal new aspects of the project
• Can lead to ideas for further development
• Intentionality in travelling and carrying out your project
• Practicing group communication and encountering conflict
Your General Proposal Skeleton

1. **Title page**
2. **Project details (1000 word limit)**
   1. Frame your narrative
   2. Illustrate your narrative with specific details
3. **Safety**
   1. Detailed research on risk in specific places/activities
   2. Contingency plans to address/mitigate these risks
   3. Your plan on updating CIPE (me)
4. **Detailed Itinerary**
   1. Provide a map of your travels if applicable
   2. Indicate what you will do on a day-to-day basis
5. **Budget**
   1. Using the spreadsheet
   2. Making sure your budget is proportionate to the intention of your journey
1. Title Page

[Photo]

Title of Travel Fellowship

Applicants:
Name
Name
Name

Total Amount Requested: $3,234

Applicant Contact Details:
student@yale-nus.edu.sg
student@yale-nus.edu.sg
student@yale-nus.edu.sg
2. Project Details

Frame your narrative and convince the reader of the significance of your project

• Be detailed and intentional about your idea:

1. What is your idea and what questions are you asking?
2. How does the idea use travel as a medium?
3. What are the possibilities for intellectual engagement?
4. What is your methodology?
5. How will you develop personally and what will you bring back?
6. What will a day-in-the-life look like?
2. Project Details
Case Study A:

“We will conduct an anthropological investigation into the South East Asian bicycle, asking questions like, how important is the bicycle to South East Asian people? Why is it important?”

“...we don’t need verbal language to build bonds of empathy and understanding. Furthermore, by being on a bicycle, we will be able to share an everyday experience that is the same as that of millions in the region.”

“We seek to develop personally by learning to develop grit in difficult situations, building our physical and emotional strength. We seek to develop academically by understanding the status of the bicycle and being immersed in this experiential learning journey.”
2. Project Details

Case Study B: The Real Proposal

• “We will conduct an ethnographic investigation into the status of the bicycle in Southeast Asia. We will ask questions like...What communities and energies surround the bicycle?”
“This considered, we will prioritize our impressions of places, and will use Geertz’ methods of Thick Description to record what we see, smell, hear, taste, and feel.”

“What is authenticity? What does it look like? For what reason do we sit on our high horses claiming we’ve seen ‘authentic’ or ‘real’ Thailand? Kei had lamented in our correspondence to Prof. Johnson (our Yale-NUS professor specializing in anthropological research in Thailand. He kindly taught us Thai, and also incidentally happens to be our no. 1 fan on this blog!) that she felt tired of the unoriginal, unauthentic tourist trap that was Pak Beng, Laos, where the slow boat to Luang Prabang discharges hordes of tourists to refuel. Prof. Johnson replied ‘everything that you see is inauthentic, and so, everything that you see is authentic. Deciding what is authentic or inauthentic is the game of the tourist. You are beyond that now.’ Perhaps that was the question all along: does authenticity even exist?”

– Daniel Soo, The Game of The Tourist
“We expect to experience the vulnerability of bicycle travel (as we are dependent on strangers, natural forces, and luck for our well-being)”
“...travelling by bicycle will allow us to be intimately connected and sensitized to the topographical changes we encounter. We hope to gain access to spaces and people that we might have missed if travelling by bus or train. “
2. Project Details

Further illustrate your narrative and demonstrate commitment

- What kinds of learning?
  - Cross-cultural understanding,
  - Subject matter knowledge
  - Inter-personal relationships

- What methods are you using?
  - Ethnographic
  - Interview
  - Documentary

- What does each person contribute?
  - Where are they coming from/lens/skills/identities

- What is the work you have done so far to demonstrate commitment to this?
  - Speaking to professors
  - Training sessions
  - Language classes

- Ethical considerations:
  - Who are you interacting with? Are there vulnerable groups?
  - Informed consent for photographs/research

- Group dynamics and activities
  - i.e. “Nightly reflection sharing circle”
  - Time set apart to work on final project
  - Update blog during trip
  - Resolving/addressing conflict

- Cross-cultural sensitivity
  - Positionality
  - Keeping a critical mind about “travel”
  - Awareness, recognition and reflection on privilege(s)
General Tips on Writing Project Details:

• Do the necessary research to ask the questions you want to ask
• Be well informed about your project and context
  • Have a strong location/transport rationale
• Be intentional about your methods
• Be honest with your expectations and address them
• Academic/ intellectual engagement
• Write so that a lay-person can understand your ideas
• Answer all possible questions a reader might have. So review with friends!
Project Details: Talking About What You Bring Back

Project outcomes and deliverables:

• What are your specific project outcomes and how do they match your topic’s needs?
  • E.g. Establishing models for sustainability in Singapore
  • A project based on Journey to the West focusing on transcribing fact into fiction by writing poetry

• What would make this a successful project to you?
  • Intellectual, creative, emotional, physical, spiritual engagement
    • E.g. Project studying traditional art forms in Yogyakarta by young artists
    • E.g. Project studying self and national identity

• How do you want to share this learning in a way that is meaningful to you?
  • Digitized & interactive sharing: Blogs
  • End product sharing: Short films/exhibitions
  • Skills building workshop
  • In-person presentation
  • Academic papers
Safety & Risk Management

• Are there safety concerns related to the place(s) you intend to be in?
  • Locational aspects
  • Access to communication & healthcare services
  • Natural disaster zones
  • Political turmoil
  • Transport
  • Just getting sick

• How will you address and mitigate these risks?
  • Touching base with Intl. SOS & consistent use of travel tracker
  • First aid training
  • Preparation (vaccinations, medication etc.)
  • Research into nearby pharmacies and hospitals
  • Consistent contact with CIPE
Itinerary

• What are your milestones and the steps in-between?

• What will you be doing day-to-day, and how will you be intentional about your travel & academic goals?

**Start:** May 15th  
**End:** July 25th

**Map of first part:** https://goo.gl/maps/Uz4MU  
**Map of second part:** https://goo.gl/maps/9KgMU

- **Day 1 (May 14th)** Rest and preparation
- **Day 2 (May 15th)**
  - Leave by bicycle in the morning.
  - Cycle to Johor Bahru, Malaysia and catch train to Butterworth, Malaysia.
- **Days 3, 4, 5, 6 (May 16th to May 19th)**
  - in Butterworth
  - *waiting for bicycles to arrive by separate cargo train*
- **Day 7 (May 20th)** Butterworth to Bujang Valley 55km - 1 day
- **Day 8 (May 21st)** Bujang Valley to Perlis 110km - 2 days
- **Day 10 (May 23rd)**
  - Perlis, Malaysia to Songkhla, Thailand *(border crossing involved)* 108km - 2 days
Budget

• You need your program details and timings worked out in order to list your expenses in detail.

• Sketch out broad outlines of the budget to be sure that costs are in proportion to the outcomes you anticipate.

• Limit expenditure on your personal travel.

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**Budget Plan (Cash Advancement)**

**CIPE Summer Program (Student-Generated Initiatives)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit Cost (S$)</th>
<th># of persons</th>
<th>Estimated Cost (S$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>22-Feb-14</td>
<td>Flight to and from Singapore to KL</td>
<td>250.00</td>
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<td>Public transportation around the city</td>
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<td><strong>Materials &amp; Supplies</strong></td>
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<td>22-Feb-14</td>
<td>Art Supplies</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Meals / Food</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Feb-14</td>
<td>Meals - Breakfast</td>
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<td>Meals - Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Feb-14</td>
<td>Admission Fees (Museums, Exhibits)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

**Total Cost**

410.00

**Project Name**

**Duration**

21 Feb to 2 Mar 2014

**Amount of Advance Required (S$)**

410.00

**Number of Participants**

1

**Name of Student Receiving Advance**


**Bank Account # for Funds Transfer**

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Questions?