

Dear Chairs and Program Directors,

Our office will launch the 2015 SEE-Beyond award competition through emails, posters, and the [SEE-Beyond web site](#) that will include the 2015 award application and guidelines, as well as the list of past awards and additional resources. We will launch this year's competition to students just prior to the Thanksgiving break. The following week, on **Thurs. Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm** in Emerson Auditorium, we will host an information session and panel of 2014 SEE-Beyond recipients.

Although OAA will provide outreach and advertising, you will still run your own local competition to identify the proposal you consider most worthy of support. As in the past, each major or minor may put forward one candidate. The 40 or so proposals that emerge from that first round of review will then be vetted by a faculty review panel to identify the final set of ~20 recipients. Recipients will each receive a \$4K award.

Dates and deadlines are similar to the past two years. Proposals will be due to you on **Friday, March 27**. The proposal you wish to put forward to the college-competition is due to me on **Tuesday, April 7**. We anticipate announcing the recipients no later than **April 17**.

I have attached the updated announcement and application form. A successful proposal should be well-written and clearly articulate how the experience will enhance the student's educational goals as well as demonstrate his or her level of preparedness for the experience. I would suggest that you discuss with your department or program colleagues what criteria you will use to rank your proposals internally (type of experience, class year, previous coursework, etc.). If you would like to include any of these criteria explicitly through your own emails, webpage, or through our resources page, just let me know. Please remember that we are looking to support experiences that put the student's classroom learning into practice and deepen their knowledge or understanding of the discipline.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming launch of the program, the timeline, or any of the particulars. Please note, in response to feedback from multiple departments after the 2013 competition, students may only submit their SEE-Beyond proposal to one department or program (major or minor) for consideration. They can still *apply* to other award competitions but can only accept one funded experiential learning opportunity from Skidmore. This information is included with other FAQ's below.

All my best, Kim

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SEE-Beyond Awards FAQ's:

- 1. Will the recipients all receive \$4000 regardless of financial aid?** Yes. The goal is to provide a large enough stipend that financial need is less of an obstacle so that most students can afford to engage in a SEE-Beyond experience. Note that students on financial aid are expected to earn \$2-2.4K over the summer, depending on class year.
- 2. Will recipients need to have expenses pre-approved? Will they need to submit receipts?** No. Recipients will receive a single check to use as necessary as salary, to cover travel or participant costs, to contribute to room/board, etc. OAA will administer SEE-Beyond funds. Departments/programs will not be responsible for accounting and check requests.
- 3. Will applicants need to obtain a letter of recommendation from faculty?** We are interested in minimizing the burden of this competition on individual faculty, and given that the average advising load is 18 students, some faculty may be inundated with requests, especially in majors with few FTE. Putting the burden on students to clearly articulate their academic rationale is appropriate. If letters of support from faculty seem critical to you, feel free to require them for your own department/program, but we have not included that in the general application.
- 4. What about the second round of competition? Since different programs may have different goals/expectations, isn't a letter from the chair or other faculty member necessary?** Yes, for the second round, it would be very helpful to have a *brief* letter from the program explaining why the proposal is compelling.
- 5. Can the proposed experience be credit-bearing?** Yes, SEE-Beyond awards can be used to cover tuition costs. However, it is NOT the intent of SEE-Beyond awards to fund coursework at another institution unless the course is of special relevance to the student's academic plan.
- 6. Can the proposed experience earn internship or independent study credit at Skidmore?** Students may choose to use their award to pay summer tuition at Skidmore, but note that credit-bearing internships and independent studies require faculty sponsorship. SEE-Beyond awards are not intended to impact faculty workload, so we would not encourage students to seek formal faculty sponsorship unless that is something *you* wish to require for *your* majors/minors.
- 7. What if a student hasn't obtained final acceptance into a program by the March 27 deadline?** Students who cannot obtain final acceptance before the March 27 deadline may still be considered. If their proposal is selected for funding, they will need to confirm acceptance by April 17.
- 8. Can students submit the same proposal to multiple departments/programs or award competitions? Can past award winners reapply?** SEE-Beyond awards cannot be combined with other funded experiential learning opportunities at Skidmore; however, students may *apply* to other funding opportunities. Students may not, however, submit the same SEE-Beyond proposal to multiple departments or programs. Past award winners may reapply with new proposals, although you may have your own criteria for considering a student who has previously won a SEE-Beyond award. We have added a series of directed questions to the application form so that you have this information for consideration.