**Leadership Advancing Socially Engaged Research**

**2021-2022 Information and Call for Applications**

Leadership Advancing Socially Engaged Research is an experiential training program for Notre Dame PhD students in their 3rd or 4th year of study in academic year 2021-22. It is intended to develop leadership proficiencies and aptitude as well as to explore and build skills for socially engaged research.

**Benefits and Activities**

Program participants will have the opportunity to develop strengths in leadership, consider the ethical implications of their research, and positively impact the communities in which they work. The yearlong program provides an opportunity to learn from faculty, peers, and current leaders through research, workshops, mentorship, and real-world problem solving.

Benefits include:

* The development of leadership aptitude, including an appreciation of leadership strengths and potential and the creation of an individualized leadership development plan
* An opportunity for structured reflection on the social and ethical implications of one’s research
* Perspective gained on research and career through an exploration of their social and ethical context
* Training and practice in research communication
* Development of mentoring skills and ethical sensitivity
* Positive and tangible impact on campus or in the broader community

Activities include:

* Participation in a yearlong seminar series and workshops on leadership and social engagement conducted by knowledgeable practitioners, researchers, and presenters.
* Training in how to communicate your research and enhance its relevance to the general public, stakeholders in your research, cross-disciplinary collaborators, and policy makers.
* A sustained project in leadership or research impact with the support of mentors and peers.

**Eligibility, Expectations, and Selection Process**

**All** Ph.D. students entering their third or fourth year in the fall of 2021 who are in good academic standing are eligible to apply. There are no disciplinary restrictions for this program. However, Master’s students and earlier or later year Ph.D. students are *not* eligible. This program is a yearlong commitment (August 2021 to August 2022) and admission is competitive.

**Attendance is mandatory for each program meeting.** Group meeting will occur approximately every three weeks throughout the year. Most meetings are on Wednesdays from 1pm-4:30pm. Consult your schedule and make sure your advisor is aware of these day and time commitments *before* submitting your application. Attendance at each meeting is mandatory. However, limited case by case exceptions for unavoidable absences at particular meetings will be granted. If you know of such conflicts with any of these dates when you apply, please note that in your application.

The selection process is based on the following:

* The participant’s interest in and aptitude for leadership development as demonstrated by their ability to articulate how program participation will assist their professional, research, and/or service interests
* Identification of a practicum experience that will support the participant’s leadership development and/or the social impact of their research
* The applicant’s interest in and aptitude for mentoring other students
* The applicant’s demonstrated desire to support the University’s service, teaching, and research missions
* Previous experience with leadership in a higher education, community, or professional setting is also taken into consideration, but not required

**Compensation**

Supplementing the primary benefit of leadership training and an enhanced perspective, students participating in the program will receive:

* 1 course credit per term of participation, including summer (3 course credits total)
* Certificate of completion

**Submitting an Application**

To apply, please digitally submit your completed application as one .pdf using the Google form link on the LASER website. Applications must be received no later than April 1st.

1. A cover letter addressing the following:
   1. Describe an actual experience when you took a significant risk (from your perspective) and failed. What does this story reveal about your character? How would you describe the experience to someone else so that they could benefit from your experience? What is the key lesson that you would pass on to others? (limited to 1000 words.)
   2. Describe what you see as the social impact of your particular research area – why it ultimately matters to society, and the stakeholders to whom it matters most. What do you see as the social and ethical opportunity and, if applicable, risks? (limited to 500 words.)
   3. Briefly describe how your participation in the program will support your career aspirations, research, and/or service interests. Be as specific as you can about your thoughts and interests. (limited to 500 words).
   4. Briefly describe your proposed social engagement or leadership project or opportunity and what your roles and responsibilities will be. (limited to 500 words).
2. A current resume or curriculum vitae
3. A letter of support from your advisor
   1. This letter should highlight why the applicant is a good fit for a program in leadership and social engagement and how they will benefit from participating. The letter should also confirm that the applicant is in good academic standing, generally meeting academic milestones, and the applicant’s current program of study allows the time to devote to this leadership experience.