

## **VISITING SCHOLAR/RESEARCHER GUIDELINES**

**Purpose:** To summarize the process that is used when managing visiting scholar/researcher request and provide an overview of the resources and expectations associated with being a visiting scholar/researcher.

The Department of Communication provides opportunities for international faculty members, researchers, and doctoral students to apply to be a Visiting Scholar/Researcher to further their academic career and participate in the intellectual life of the department. These faculty exchanges can be very helpful to increase the research capacity of the department and to serve as academic bridges for developing long term research and educational ties between Texas A&M and other top research universities.

Our program offers Visiting Scholars/Researchers dedicated time to focus on their own research as well as the chance to interact with students and faculty in the department on projects of mutual benefit.

Please note that the information and requirements listed below only apply to the Visiting Scholar/Researcher title. Visiting Scholars/Researchers do not receive a stipend during their appointment, and their appointment does not imply tenure or continuation at the university.

### **How to Become a Visiting Scholar/Researcher in the TAMU Department of Communication**

Prospective visiting scholars should submit a proposal for an independent research project to a prospective faculty mentor in the Department of Communication. A list of current faculty members, along with information on their research areas, is available here:  
<https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/communication/people/faculty/>

### **Required Qualifications**

The Visiting Scholar/Researcher must have an academic degree appropriate to conduct independent research and should be working on independent research that aligns with faculty interests in the Department of Communication.

Preference will be given to applicants whose research and background complements departmental strengths. We particularly invite applications from faculty at universities that already have strong collaborative ties with our department and university.

All applicants should have excellent English skills by the time of their stay. Proof of English language proficiency is required unless the visitor is a native English speaker or lives in an English-speaking country.

Once an invitation is extended to the Visiting Scholar/Researcher, they will need to work with their faculty mentor, the Department of Communication's designated staff liaison (Sandra Maldonado), and the TAMU Immigration Services for Faculty and Scholar's (ISFS) office to

obtain a J-1 visa. See the ISFS checklist here: <http://ifss.tamu.edu/ISFS/media/IFSS-Media-Library/Forms/scholars-checklist.pdf>

### **Expectations of Visiting Scholar/Researchers**

The Visiting Scholar/Researcher must be available to deliver a research paper to faculty and students in the Communication Department during their exchange period. This presentation provides an opportunity for the Visiting Scholar/Researcher to share their work with faculty and students in the department as well as across the College of Liberal Arts and the wider University. Details on this presentation will be included in the invitation letter.

The Visiting Scholar/Researcher will be available to deliver guest lectures or presentations in undergraduate or graduate courses, if relevant to the scholar's expertise, or provide other assistance to faculty research projects. The Visiting Scholar/Researcher will be asked to assist in such duties no more than five hours per week.

A Visiting Scholar/Researcher will be allowed to sit in on graduate classes if permission is obtained in advance by the professor of record for each class. A Visiting Scholar/Researcher who is a doctoral student at another university will not be allowed to obtain academic credit while sitting in on a course.

On occasion, Visiting Scholar/Researchers will be expected to contribute to research collaborations with Texas A&M faculty and graduate students. Their participation will be acknowledged in any subsequent research presentations or publications.

The Visiting Scholar/Researcher should acknowledge the contribution of Texas A&M faculty and graduate students in any published research that emerges from the exchange visit. For more information, contact Dr. Cara Wallis at [cwallis@tamu.edu](mailto:cwallis@tamu.edu).

### **Information for TAMU COMM Faculty Regarding Visiting Scholar/Researcher Mentorship**

1. When a faculty member of the department agrees to host and mentor the applicant, that faculty member will provide a recommendation letter for the appointment of the Visiting Scholar/Researcher to the department head and the Internationalization Committee for approval.
2. Once approved, the prospective Visiting Scholar/Researcher will receive an invitation packet from the Department of Communication staff (Sandra Maldonado) to initiate the J-1 visa request through the TAMU ISFS office (<http://ifss.tamu.edu/>). Please note that ISFS charges the applicant a \$350 non-refundable fee for visa processing.
3. Privileges, such as ID cards and keys, will not be provided until the Visiting Scholar/Researcher has obtained all required approvals and has checked in with the Immigration Services for Faculty and Scholars office.

The faculty member nominating the Visiting Scholar/Researcher will either serve as or designate a mentor for the Visiting Scholar/Researcher during the length of the Visiting Scholar/Researcher's stay. The faculty mentor serves as an academic liaison for the Visiting Scholar/Researcher. Neither the department nor the host faculty member are expected to provide assistance in housing, transportation, or other issues of daily life.

The Department of Communication's designated staff to serve as the liaison with the TAMU ISFS office and to facilitate normal activities with the Visiting Scholar/Researcher and faculty mentor is Sandra Maldonado.

### **Previous Visiting Scholars**

- Remco Sanders, University of Amsterdam, May 2019
- Xi Shengju, Qinghai University, China, September 2017 – September 2018
- Sonne Schenkel, University of Amsterdam, January – May 2016
- Alessandra Vitullo, Università de Torgata, Italy, September – December 2014
- Wang Lei, Communication University of China, September 2013 – December 2014
- Lirian Sifuentes, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil, January – June 2013
- Ghufraan Shiltagh, University of Baghdad, Iraq, January – May 2012
- Gan Xianfeng, Shandong University, China, July – December 2011
- Liu Xinchuan, China, November 2010 – October 2011
- Xu Shuhua, Communication University of China, August 2010 – July 2011
- Yan Huan, Northeastern Normal University, China, November 2009 – November 2010
- Liu Ping, Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, China, September 2008 – September 2009