



Building Vibrant and Resilient Environments: SPDC Visiting Scholar Program

Background

The pursuit of vibrant and resilient environments is at the core of the global communities because of the concern of growing population, degrading environments and climate change. Educators, researchers and scientists are collaborating more than ever to find solutions for the deteriorating living environments. The School of Planning, Design and Construction (SPDC) at Michigan State University (MSU) is in high demand by international scholars, as they desire to visit the school to learn about sustainability and resiliency. SPDC has initiated a pilot program in 2018 to address the demand and manage the application process. Particularly, the four programs housed in **SPDC (Construction Management, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning)** address diverse needs for the built environment. Our aim is to host visiting scholars by offering a range of educational, research, and cross-cultural exchange activities, and to build SPDC's international reputation.

Purpose

This program will enhance the department's ability to actively reach out to international communities and attract the most promising visitors in the world.

Benefits to visitors include:

- Introducing visitors to SPDC faculties with similar research.
- Auditing SPDC courses (with instructor's consent).
- Participation in activities in an organized fashion.
- Increased access to SPDC and MSU resources.
- Certification from the school when concluding the visitation.
- Networking with other visitors in the program.
- Enhanced experience with classroom participation, studio review, field trip, social mixer, etc.
- Assigned a desk for study.

Qualification

Qualified visitors include (1) short-term scholar, (2) research scholar and (3) professor described as "J-1 Scholar DS-2019 Request" by MSU's Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS).

Website: [OISS Hosting J-1 Scholars](#)

English Language Proficiency

Visiting scholar must meet OISS's minimum standard for the English language proficiency. In general, TOEFL score should be at least 79 with no sub-score below 17, TOEFL iBT (paper-based) should be 550 with no sub-score below 52 and the IELTS score should be at least 6.5. Other forms of proof may be acceptable and should be approved by OISS.



Housing and Insurance

SPDC does not provide insurance coverage for visiting scholars. Visiting scholars are responsible for obtaining appropriate insurance based on OISS's requirements. Visiting scholars are also responsible for finding their housing themselves.

Typical Activities Covered in the Program

- Auditing SPDC classes (if seats are available and instructors permit).
- Attending additional training and seminars provided by other university centers, including main library, Writing Center, etc.
- University and school lecture information, such as Distinguished Lectures.
- Studio project review.
- We will try to arrange one field trip for each fall and spring semester for the visiting scholar when class field trips are available.
- Introduction to relevant academic organizations and their annual conference information. Scholars may choose to attend these conferences' annual meetings, but such activities are not included in the program.
- Visiting scholar luncheon (once in each long semester, fall and spring).
- Other research related activities will be directed by the host faculty member. It is case-by- case.

Scope of Service

- Process application paperwork for DS-2019 Form.
- Visiting scholars will be provided an ID card that allows the scholars to use the library and Internet services.
- Visiting scholars will be introduced to a host faculty member with similar research if no arrangement is made before coming to the department.
- Visiting scholars will be presented a certificate upon completion of the visit.

Expectation from the Visitors

- Visiting scholar will collaborate with the host faculty to produce scholarly works such as conference abstracts, conference papers or journal articles.
- Visiting scholar can give guest lectures to faculty and students.
- Visiting scholar is required to give a summary presentation to the host faculty member and SPDC colleagues to complete the program.
- Visiting scholar should be aware of MSU's code of ethics and code of conduct and will be expected to meet that standard as any MSU members.