Boston University School of Theology
Application Form for “Springboard” Funding

Boston University School of Theology seeks to support students with education and enrichment experiences that they may not have otherwise been able to conceive and realize. A small pool of “Springboard” Funding for the 2011-12 Academic Year will be awarded to students enrolled in School of Theology degree programs who wish to engage themselves in special internships and projects. This is a competitive awards program based on the availability of funds and the merit of the applications as judged by the Contextual Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

Student’s Name: ___________________________ BU ID#: __________________

Degree Program: ☐MDiv ☐MTS ☐STM ☐DMin ☐ThD ☐PhD

“Springboard” funding aims to support and evaluate various forms of contextual learning. Applications may be made in any of the following categories. Priority will be given to projects in service learning, community-based research, or action-reflection projects with faith communities or community organizations.

Application Categories:
Check the category that applies to you AND attach a paper (three page maximum) describing your proposed project/research/internship and provide a rationale for how it constitutes contextual learning.

a) Action-Reflection Projects ☐ (check here)
   This category encourages students to work together in designing creative action-reflection or ministry projects in church or community. Priority will be given to group applications. Award levels will vary based on demonstrated need for the project. Applicants also need to submit a proposed budget detailing expenses, any other anticipated funding sources, and a 1-page letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor or person who agrees to serve as a site mentor.

   Individual awards up to $1,500 Group awards up to $4,000

b) Summer Internships (international or domestic) ☐ (check here)
   Awards are given for unique summer internships beyond the required field education course. Award amounts will vary based on expenses incurred by internship. Applicants also need to submit a proposed budget detailing expenses, any other anticipated funding sources, and a 1-page letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor or person who agrees to serve as a site mentor.

   Awards up to $2,500/student.

c) Course-Related Travel ☐ (check here)
   Funding grants of up to $1,000/student to subsidize contextual learning that is part of a course. For this category, faculty members must submit the application on behalf of all the students in the course. Please describe the contextual learning that will be part of the course travel. Award levels will vary based on the expense of the travel. Please indicate any other anticipated funding sources. Maximum class size: 15 students
d) **Doctoral-level Contextual Research for students at the Dissertation Writing Stage**
   □ (check here)

   **Funding grants of up to $2,500/student** are available to subsidize demonstrated financial expenses incurred as part of contextual research for dissertation projects. To be eligible, the contextual research must be part of a dissertation project and students must have an approved prospectus. Applicants need to submit a proposed budget detailing expenses, any other anticipated funding sources, and a 1-page letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor.

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e) **Presentations at Conferences with Accompanying Reflection on Academy as Context** □ (check here)

   Students who will present a paper at a conference may apply for funding up to $1,000/student. This category aims not simply to support the scholarly development of our students but also—importantly—to reflect on the academy as context and how contextual learning happens in the academy. Successful applicants will demonstrate an ability to reflect about such questions. Applicants must include some form of documentation indicating that their paper proposal has been accepted and noting the date and venue of presentation. They also should submit a proposed budget detailing expenses, any other anticipated funding sources, and a 1-page letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor.

   Remember, this application must be submitted with a paper (three page maximum) describing your proposed project/research/internship and provide a rationale for how it constitutes contextual learning. If applicable, please include any supporting documents (e.g. invitation to present at a conference).

   Award recipients will participate in a community-lunch “poster” session (or other appropriate venue as approved by the Contextual Education and Lifelong Learning Committee) in which they will have the opportunity to communicate their learning experiences with the larger community. In all cases, then, students will be expected to: write a three page reflection paper on their internship or project expressing what they contributed and what they learned, and share their work in the poster session.

   Internships/Projects submitted for consideration must be completed at least one month prior to the recipient’s graduation date.

   Applications will be accepted beginning October 1, 2011. Completed applications should be submitted to Valentina Pride in STH suite 110. Questions can be directed to Ms. Pride at vp@bu.edu.

   Award recipients will be notified within 30 days of submission. Awards will be processed through the payroll system and will therefore not affect financial aid.

   Students who are out of academic compliance or not in good standing academically are ineligible for this award.

   Student Signature___________________________________________ Date____________