



2018 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Advancing Public Scholarship on Religion and Theology

Seeking to advance public understanding of religion and theology, the Henry Luce Foundation's [Theology Program](#) invites new inquiries for university-based projects that are centrally animated by faculty members based at research institutions.

Any doctoral degree-granting university in the United States is eligible to submit a letter of inquiry. Due no later than October 15, 2018, inquiries must be submitted through the Luce Foundation's [online portal](#). Grant amounts of \$250,000 to \$750,000 will be considered, and approved grants will typically fund projects that can be completed in less than 5 years.



Through competitively-awarded grants to research universities, the Luce Foundation's Theology Program aims to support **collaborative, experimental, and field-shaping initiatives that enliven the practice of public scholarship.**

The Foundation welcomes inquiries for public scholarship projects that:

- Cross religious, geographic, and academic boundaries
- Advance scholarship that critically examines received assumptions about religion, secularity, and public culture
- Work inventively at the intersections of theological inquiry and the multidisciplinary study of religion

Grants may fund a wide range of possible activities, including (but not limited to):

- Publicly engaged humanities and social science research
- Support for the next generation of scholars, teachers, and public intellectuals
- Creative uses of digital technologies and new publication platforms
- Multi-institutional collaborations of various kinds

Engagement with religious, media, policy, activist and/or art communities is particularly encouraged, and special consideration will be given to proposed projects involving partnerships with non-academic organizations.

Projects funded through the Theology Program's [2017 RFP for research universities](#) include: a project on religion and the city at Morgan State University; a project on religion beyond the academy at Northeastern University; a project on religion and sound at Ohio State University (in collaboration with Michigan State University); a project on religion and refugee resettlement at Princeton University; and a project on lived religion in a digital age at Saint Louis University.

Examples of other recently funded Theology Program projects include: a project on [theology and the public university](#) at the University of California, Berkeley; a project on [religion and its publics](#) at the University of Virginia; a project on [public theology and racial justice](#) at Vanderbilt University; a project on [facing the Anthropocene](#) at Duke University; and a project on [public religion and public scholarship in a digital age](#) at the University of Colorado Boulder.

For further information on Theology Program's thematic emphases, see the [overview](#) and [history](#) of the program.

Should you have questions in advance of completing the Letter of Inquiry, you may e-mail them to theology@hluce.org.



Application Calendar

July 15, 2018 – Application portal is open for submissions

October 15, 2018 – Deadline for institutions to complete the letter of inquiry form

February 15, 2019 – Deadline for selected institutions to submit full proposals

July 1, 2019 - Awards are announced

Additional Eligibility Requirements and Restrictions

- Research universities outside of the United States may submit appropriate projects for consideration only if they provide evidence of non-profit status acceptable to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.
- Multi-institutional collaborations are welcome and partnerships with non-academic organizations are especially encouraged. The lead grantee and administrative base for the proposed project must be an eligible doctoral degree-granting university.
- Only one proposed project may be submitted per institution.
- Funded projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2019.