

Helping International Students through the International Development Program

Human-Animal Studies (HAS), the interdisciplinary field that looks at the interactions and relationships between humans and other animals, has been strongest in the English-speaking world, with the majority of books, journals, college programs and courses accessible to an English-speaking, largely Western, audience. And even within the Western world, the United States continues to have the greatest offerings in terms of courses and degree programs for students.

In 2014, ASI sought to change that, partnering with The Humane Society of the United States in the creation of a new program called the HSI-ASI Human-Animal Studies International Development Project. The purpose of this competitive program is to provide one non-American university per year the resources to build or expand its own human-animal studies program. This program provides the financial and knowledge-based resources that universities in underserved areas need to build their own HAS programs.

Since the first year of the program, the International Development Project has received applications from universities in Austria, Poland, Tasmania, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Cameroon, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Greece, and has funded programs at the University of Milan, the University of Innsbruck, the University of Athens, and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The results of the program have so far included the creation of a masters program in HAS at the University of Milan, and, in 2016, the first Masters of Arts was awarded in the program; and the creation of an HAS module at the University of Innsbruck which consists of creating two new courses and writing of a German-language introductory text which was published in 2017.

Through this innovative program, the Animals & Society Institute hopes to continue to foster the spread of Human-Animal Studies programs throughout the world.

The Animals & Society Institute (ASI) is excited to announce the call for proposals for the fifth annual Human-Animal Studies International Development Project (HASIDP). The purpose of this competitive program is to provide one non-American university per year the resources to build its own human-animal studies program.

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