



The QUIERE PROJECT

Are you interested in pursuing or enhancing a teaching career in early childhood education with a focus on children from birth through 5 years in inclusive and culturally diverse settings? Are you seeking dual certification in early childhood/early childhood special education? Are you particularly interested in working with children of bilingual, immigrant, and low income families? If so, you may want to consider becoming a QUIERE scholar.

What is QUIERE?

The Integrated Early Childhood Education Masters Program at Teachers College, Columbia University invites applications for scholarships made available through a new personnel preparation grant federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs—Quality Universally Inclusive Early Responsive Education (QUIERE). QUIERE scholars (teachers funded through QUIERE) will be prepared as dually certified early childhood and early childhood special educators, positioned to address the critical needs of infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families, particularly those of immigrant backgrounds. We are especially seeking diverse applicants whose backgrounds and/or experiences reflect a capacity for addressing more fully the needs of young English language learners and families living in poverty. QUIERE scholars will gain an understanding of emergent bilingualism and will be able to use this knowledge in conjunction with research-based approaches to early childhood/early childhood special education to create quality universally inclusive early educational curricula and teaching practices.

Who is Eligible for a QUIERE Scholarship?

Students must be admitted to the Teachers College Integrated Early Childhood Dual certification Masters program in order to be considered for QUIERE. They must hold a bachelor's degree from an approved academic institution and meet all requirements for Teachers College admission. They must be permanent residents or citizens of the United States. Previous preparation in early childhood education is NOT required.

What does a QUIERE Scholarship provide?

QUIERE scholarships provide funding for up to 23 tuition credits within the 48 credit dual certification program (approximately half of the cost of the total program.). All graduates will be eligible for NYS Dual Certification in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. Students will earn a Columbia University M.A. in Integrated Early Childhood Education (Dual Certification) and may be able to add a bilingual extension to their degree by taking one additional course. Graduates will be prepared and qualified for positions working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners as teachers in public inclusive pre-kindergartens and kindergartens, Head Starts and Early Head Starts, preschool special education classrooms, home-based early intervention, and preschool special education itinerant services. All QUIERE scholars will be obligated to teach for 2 years for each year of QUIERE funding in high needs settings which include infants, preschoolers, and/or kindergarten children who qualify for special education services. (Note: All 23 credits can be used over one program year.)

What Do QUIERE Scholars Do?

Along with the Dual Certification curriculum, QUIERE will address three target areas: 1. meeting the needs of young learners and families who live in poverty; 2. meeting the needs of English language learners; and 3. promoting early literacy for diverse learners. Target areas will be threaded throughout the curriculum, along with the principle of partnering with families and collaborating with other professionals. Students will engage in a series of quality inclusive and diverse field placements in NYC while taking their courses, most of which are offered in the evening. . These field experiences will take place in homes and educational sites which include infants, toddlers, and preschoolers receiving early intervention and early childhood special education services. QUIERE scholars can be full- or part-time students, and at least one required field placement can be done at an appropriate worksite. After graduation from the program, new teacher graduates will take part in an innovative mentoring program during their first year of teaching. .

How to apply to QUIERE:

This project is an interdisciplinary effort, directed by Professors Mariana Souto-Manning, Celia Genishi, and Susan L. Recchia (Teachers College, Columbia University's Dual Certification program). For further information about the Quality Universally Inclusive Early Responsive Education (QUIERE) program, please contact us at Teachers College, Columbia University: QUIEREproject@gmail.com

For further information about the Integrated Early Childhood program, please browse our program website at: www.tc.edu/C&T/ChildEd/

To apply for a QUIERE scholarship, go to: www.tc.edu/QUIERE/