MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Lake Superior College

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR
Student Educational Travel to Europe
JULY 2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

For Student Educational Travel to Europe

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Notice

This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not obligate the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, its Board of Trustees or Lake Superior College to award a contract or complete the proposed project and each reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest. Proposals must be clear and concise. Proposals that are difficult to follow or that do not conform to the RFP format or binding specifications may be rejected. Responding Vendors must include the required information called for in this RFP. Minnesota State reserves the right to reject a proposal if required information is not provided or is not organized as directed.

Lake Superior College also reserves the right to waive minor informalities and reserves the right to:

1. Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP;
2. Select a proposal for contract negotiation other than the one with the lowest cost;
3. Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any Vendor;
4. Terminate negotiations and select the next most responsive Vendor for contract negotiations;
5. Terminate negotiations and prepare and release a new RFP;
6. Terminate negotiations and take such action as deemed appropriate.

Any decision to cancel or reject any and all proposals is in Minnesota State’s sole discretion. Minnesota State also reserves the right to change the evaluation criteria or any other provision in this RFP by posting notice of the change(s) on the Vendors and Suppliers at Minnesota State page. Vendors should check the site daily for updates (e.g. amendments, responses to questions) and are expected to review information on the site carefully before submitting a final proposal. Such changes or updates above constitutes written notice to each Vendor.

Definitions

Wherever and whenever the following words or their pronouns occur in this proposal, they shall have the meaning given here:

Minnesota State: State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Lake Superior College.

School: Lake Superior College

System Office: The central system office of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities located at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.
Vendor: The firm selected by Minnesota State as the successful responder(s) responsible to execute the terms of a contract.

Targeted Group Business (TGB): A business that is at least 51% owned and operated by a woman or person of color.

Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more minority group member (citizen of the United States or permanent resident who is Black, Hispanic, Asian, or American Indian).

Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more women.

Economically Disadvantaged (ED) Business and Individuals: Independent business which must be located (or the owner must reside) in an Economically Disadvantaged Area in Minnesota as determined by the Department of Administration.

Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VO): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more veteran or service-disabled veteran as determined by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Diversity: The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique and recognizing our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

Equity: The proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce-equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment, impacts, and outcomes for all.

Inclusion: Authentically bringing traditionally excluded individuals and/or groups into processes, activities and decisions/policy making in a way that shares power.

About Minnesota State and Lake Superior College

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is the third-largest system of state colleges and universities in the United States. Minnesota State is comprised of 33 state colleges and universities with 54 campuses located in 47 Minnesota communities. Minnesota State serves approximately 340,000 students each year. Minnesota State employs more than 15,000 dedicated faculty and staff focused on student success. Minnesota State is an independent state entity that is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. For more information about the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, please view its website at www.minnstate.edu.

Lake Superior College (LSC) is a combined community and technical college located in Duluth, Minnesota. It is one of 30 public two-year colleges that are part of Minnesota State. LSC is an open enrollment institution. Its mission is to provide high quality, affordable education that
benefits diverse learners, employers, and the community. The College achieves its mission through a wide variety of academic, technical, customized training, and workforce development offerings.

LSC awards Certificates, Diplomas, and AA, AS, AAS, and AFA Degrees. Academic offerings include over 90 programs leading to academic awards. LSC serves over 7,000 students each year. Most programs are two years or less and all can be completed in less than three years.

**Authority**

This RFP is undertaken by Lake Superior College (hereinafter “Minnesota State”) pursuant to the authority contained in provisions of Minnesota Statutes § 136F.581 and other applicable laws. Minnesota State will select the Vendor(s) whose proposal(s), and oral presentation(s) if requested, demonstrate in its sole opinion, the clear capability to best fulfill the purposes of this RFP in a cost-effective manner. Minnesota State reserves the right to accept or reject proposals, in whole or in part, and to negotiate separately as necessary to serve the best interests of Minnesota State. This RFP does not obligate Minnesota State to award a contract or complete the proposed project and it reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest.

**Project Overview**

Minnesota State is requesting proposals to assist in developing an international, educational travel tour to France and Italy during the Spring Semester 2024. The desired time of travel is May 2024. It is important to note that the price must reflect 12 to 20 paying student travelers and two (2) non-paying faculty leaders. We would prefer to have price packages for 12-14 students, 15-17 students, and 18-20 students (all including two (2) non-paying faculty leaders).

**Technical/Functional Requirements**

**Education Abroad—France & Italy - Ideal Travel Time = May 14-26, 2024**

**Trip Components**

**Transportation:**
All air tickets should be economy class but must include one standard checked bag per traveler

- RT Air US-Europe (Minneapolis to Florence going there/Paris to Minneapolis on return)
- One Way Rome to Paris (used Vueling in past, but Alitalia, Air France fly it as well—prefer strongly to land at Orly rather than Charles de Gaulle for this flight)
- Trenitalia One way train—Florence to Rome on May 18, 2024 (2nd class, economy)
- RT Groome Transport Shuttle Duluth to Minneapolis (add $3 tip per person each way)
• Paris—two shuttle reservations for group: 1) airport to hotel upon arrival from Rome on May 22, 2024 and 2) hotel to airport (CDG) for departure on May 26, 2024
   Note: we have always used Easy Go Shuttle in Paris—a fair price with good service (need to add additional tip amount?)
• Rome—one shuttle reservation hotel to airport at end of stay on May 22, 2024
• Taxi and ground transport in cities: it is important that we include $120 for each traveler to cover this expense.

**Accommodations:**
All hotel rooms must be twin double rooms with two separate beds – single room supplement cost must be determined; Two single rooms options must be booked for the group leaders as part of their comped/free packages; and breakfast should be included daily as part of the hotel package.

- Hotel in Florence – May 15, 16, 17, 2024 (3 nights)
- Hotel in Rome – May 18, 19, 20, 21, 2024 (4 nights)
- Hotel in Paris – May 22, 23, 24, 25, 2024 (4 nights)

**Museum and Site Visits:**
We will need pre-purchased tickets for the following museums or historical sites (pricing should include any discounts for college/educational travel):

**Paris**
- Eiffel Tour (top level)
- Musee du Louvre
- Musee d’Orsay

**Rome**
- Vatican Museum
- Combo Ticket Colosseum/Roman Forum
- Basilica San Clemente

**Florence**
- Duomo Museum and Dome climb
- Palazzo Vecchio
- Farm, vineyard visit with tasting and lunch

**Other Factors, Costs, and Expenses:**
We do a fair amount of paying as we travel—normally we determine the amount total for meals, transportation, and any other on-ground expenses and set that amount aside. A check for that amount would be forwarded to the college or faculty leader in advance of travel.

- Group meals—5 dinners, 4 lunches, and tips—figure $50 per person for dinners and $25 per person for lunches
- Required basic travel/emergency medical insurance

**RFP Information Contact**

An authorized representative of Minnesota State for purposes of responding to inquiries about the RFP is:

- Name: Paul Richgruber
- Title: Faculty – History Department
- Address: 2101 Trinity Road, Duluth, MN 55811
- Telephone: 218-733-7741
- E-mail address: paul.richgruber@lsc.edu

Other persons are not authorized to discuss RFP requirements before the proposal submission deadline and Minnesota State shall not be bound by and vendors may not rely on information regarding RFP requirements obtained from non-authorized persons. Questions must include the name of the questioner and his/her telephone number, fax number and/or e-mail address. Anonymous inquiries will not be answered.

**Duration of Offer**

All proposal responses must indicate they are valid for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of the proposal opening unless extended by mutual written agreement between Minnesota State and the Vendor.

Prices and terms of the proposal as stated must be valid for the length of the resulting contract.

**Terms and Conditions**

This RFP includes and incorporates [Terms and Conditions](#). Vendors should be aware of the terms and conditions in preparing responses to this RFP. Much of the language reflected in any resulting contract with Minnesota State is required by statute. If you take exception to any of the language in the terms and conditions, you must indicate those exceptions in your response to the RFP; certain exceptions may result in your proposal being disqualified from further review and evaluation. Only those exceptions indicated in your response to the RFP will be available for discussion or negotiation.
Authorized Signature

The proposal must be completed and signed in the firm's name or corporate name of the Vendor and must be fully signed by an authorized representative of the Vendor. Proof of authority of the person signing must accompany the response.

Selection and Implementation Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 31, 2023</td>
<td>Publish RFP notice on MinnState.edu/Vendors webpage &amp; LSC webpage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 7, 2023</td>
<td>Deadline for Vendors to submit clarifying questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 10, 2023</td>
<td>Deadline to publish responses to RFP questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 18, 2023 @ 12:00pm CST</td>
<td>Deadline for RFP proposal submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 25, 2023</td>
<td>Vendor(s) selected and notified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minnesota State reserves the right to not award a contract. The dates noted above are estimates but are reasonable for the purposes of presenting deadlines.

Contract Term

Minnesota State desires to enter into a contract with the successful Vendor(s) effective September 29, 2023, or on the date the last recognized signature is obtained, whichever occurs later. The length of such contract(s) will be until June 30, 2024. If Minnesota State and Vendor are unable to negotiate and sign a contract by Friday, September 29, 2023, then Minnesota State reserves the right to seek an alternative Vendor(s).

Proposal Deadline

Submitted proposals must be received at the following address not later than Friday, August 18, 2023 at 12:00pm CST:

Institution: Lake Superior College
Name: Mike Francisco
Title: Purchasing Specialist
Mailing Address: 2101 Trinity Road, Duluth, MN 55811
Format of Proposals and Submission

The Vendor shall submit three (2) printed copies of its RFP response and one (1) copy on digital media (preferably USB drive) with the RFP response in Microsoft Word format. Proposals are to be sealed in mailing envelopes or packages with the Vendor’s name and address clearly written on the outside. One copy of the proposal must be unbound and signed in blue or black ink by an authorized representative of the vendor. Proof of authority of the person signing must accompany the response.

Proposals received after the Proposal Deadline date and time will not be considered. Fax and e-mail responses will not be considered. Proposals made in pencil will be rejected. Alterations in cost figures used to determine the lowest priced proposal will be rejected unless initialed in ink by the person responsible for or authorized to make decisions as to price quoted. The use of “white out” is considered an alteration.

Proposal Content

Vendors must submit the following information:

1. **Adherence to Minnesota State Terms and Conditions:** A statement of the objectives, goals, and tasks to show or demonstrate the vendor's view and understanding of the nature of the contract.

2. **Work Plan:** A description of the deliverables to be provided by the vendor along with a detailed work plan that identifies the major tasks to be accomplished and be used as a scheduling and managing tool, as well as the basis for invoicing.

3. **Qualifications of Vendor and its Personnel:** An outline of the vendor's background and experience with examples of similar work done by the vendor and a list of personnel who will conduct the project, detailing their training, and work experience. Resumes or other information about project personnel should not, if possible, contain personal telephone numbers, home addresses or home email addresses. If it is necessary to include personal contact information, please clearly indicate in the proposal that personal contact information is being provided.

4. **Cost/Value:** Identify the level of the participation of Minnesota State in the contract, as well as any other services to be provided by Minnesota State, and details of cost allowances for this participation.

Terms of Payment

Payment shall be made by Minnesota State promptly after Vendor’s presentation of invoices for services performed and acceptance of such services by an authorized representative of Minnesota State. All services provided by the Vendor pursuant to the resulting contract shall be performed to the satisfaction of Minnesota State, as determined at the sole discretion of its
authorized representative, and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The Vendor shall not receive payment for work found by Minnesota State to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of any applicable federal, state or local law, ordinance, rule or regulation.

**Required Documents and Forms**

1. **Affidavit of Non-Collusion.** All vendors must complete the [Affidavit of Non-Collusion](#) and submit it with the response.

2. **Conflicts of Interest.** Vendor must provide a list of all entities with which it has relationships that create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest with the work that is contemplated in this request for proposals. The list should indicate the name of the entity, the relationship, and a discussion of the conflict.

3. **Workforce Certificate.** For all businesses with *40 or more employees* and a contract is estimated to be in *excess of $100,000*, vendors are required to complete the Minnesota Department of Human Rights [Workforce Declaration Page](#) and submit your certification with the response (including extension options).

4. **Equal Pay Certification.** For all businesses with *40 or more employees* and a contract is estimated to be in *excess of $500,000*, vendors are required to complete the Minnesota Department of Human Rights [Equal Pay Declaration Page](#) or claim exemption prior to contract execution. Submit your certification with the response (including extension options).

5. **Preferences for TG/ED/VO Businesses and Individuals.** If applicable, eligible certified TG/ED/VO businesses will receive preference in the evaluation of its cost proposal as outlined below. Submit your certification with the response.

**Selection Process**

The selection process includes History Faculty member, Dean of Liberal Art & Sciences, Dean of Students, Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, and Purchasing Specialist. This group will evaluate the proposals and make the final decision.

**RFP Evaluation Factors**

The following factors and their identified weight will be used by Minnesota State to evaluate the responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Evaluation Factors</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Adherence to Minnesota State Terms and Conditions</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Evaluation Factors</td>
<td>Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Work Plan</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Price [OR Price in relation to level of service to be provided]</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Qualifications of Vendor and its personnel (experience of personnel who are committed to work on the contract will be given greater weight than that of the company)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Completeness, thoroughness, and detail of response as reflected by the proposal’s discussion and coverage of all elements of work listed above</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Minnesota State reserves the right to name a date which all responding Vendors will be invited to present demonstrations or participate in an interview.

Minnesota State does not agree to reach a decision by any certain date although it is hoped the evaluation and selection will be completed by the date identified in the Selection and Implementation Timeline.

A proposal may be rejected if it is determined that a Vendor’s ability to work with the existing infrastructure will be too limited or difficult to manage.

**Supplier Diversity**

In accordance with Board Policy 5.14, Minnesota State is committed to enhancing and optimizing business and contracting opportunities that promote economic growth and prosperity in the communities we serve. We are committed to developing mutually beneficial relationships with historically underutilized minority-owned, women-owned, and disability-owned business enterprises. The goal is to ensure that diverse suppliers that satisfy our procurement and contractual standards have opportunities to provide goods and services system-wide. Suppliers are encouraged to complete and submit the [Supplier Diversity Form](#) with their RFP, which will be used to confirm eligibility based on their status and/or commitment to meeting the stated diversity goal for the specific project.

**Preference to Small TG/ED/VO Businesses and Individuals**

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 1230.1810 and Minn. Stat. §16C.16, the basis of award is that of a certified prime TG, ED, and VO business or individual will receive a six percent (6%) preference. Preferences are not cumulative; the total percentage of preference granted on a contract may not exceed the highest percentage of preference allowed for that contract. The points are applied to the final cost of the evaluation of the project. Eligible, verified, small businesses currently listed in the [Directory of Certified TG/ED/VO](#) are eligible for the preference.
Vendors interested in becoming a certified should refer to the Office of Equity in Procurement with the State of Minnesota.