

Scripture Engagement Research Initiative

A multiagency research program of Dallas International University

[Dallas International University](#) (DIU), in collaboration with SIL's [Pike Center for Integrative Scholarship](#), has launched the Scripture Engagement Research Initiative (SERI). The SERI program hosts a series of large grant-funded Scripture Engagement research projects. Research topics are proposed both by participants and by the SERI leadership. Participants can serve for short periods of time or as part of a longer-term assignment.

Who can participate as researchers?

Current or future Dallas International University students. Through participation in the Scripture Engagement Research Initiative, DIU student will benefit in the following ways: 1) acquire advanced research skills; 2) *receive funding for 3-6 credit hours of course work*; 3) the recognition of participating in a large research program (looks good on a CV); the opportunity to participate in a research project that can shape best practices in the Bible translation movement. Students have the freedom to participate in a research project proposed by the SERI Initiative or *to propose a research topic of their own*. Experienced lead researchers will guide students in the designing of research questions, selection of research methods, and identification of research settings. Student research could be the primary part of their thesis research or part of another DIU course. *If you have considered finishing your degree at DIU, this initiative might be what God is calling you to do. If you are considering starting a study program at DIU, this might be the focus God is wanting for you. Pray about it.*

Interested researchers from any organization. The SERI Initiative is looking for anyone interested in Scripture engagement research. One does not have to be affiliated with DIU or SIL. Each research project will include training specific to the research design being used. Researchers can participate in the initiative for a short period of time or as part of longer-term project.

Research Associates or Research Fellows at Dallas International University. DIU already hosts multiple research associates and research fellows. These are non-faculty, non-ranked, positions that provide participants an official DIU role to participate in research in a variety of contexts. You may be able qualified to participate in in the SERI Initiative in one of these official roles.

What are the goals the SERI Initiative?

The desire for Scripture Engagement / Scripture Impact related research has never been higher. Multiple Bible agencies are requesting research on Scripture Engagement.

These kinds of research projects can benefit the Bible translation movement in the following ways:

- Identify best practices in Scripture Impact according to current knowledge in the field
- Discover new elements contributing to successful engagement with Scripture
- Increase donor return-on-investment in Bible translation through more impacting programs

What research projects and categories are highlighted by the SERI Initiative?

The SERI Initiative will identify various research questions and design research projects of interest.

Project 1: Systematic Review of the current research on Scripture Engagement and the history of Bible translation. This study will *comprehensively* analyze what is already known in the field of Scripture Engagement. This will produce **big data** conclusions that will lead to **evidence-based best practices**.

Project 2: Longitudinal study of Scripture engagement interventions. Looks at level of engagement before and after to specific interventions to determine which interventions achieve the most benefit.

Project 3: Innovation research. This project will empower researchers to explore new or understudied aspects of missionary effectiveness through innovative research topics and well-designed and supervised research methodologies.

For further information on the SERI Initiative, please contact Timothy Hatcher at tim_hatcher@diu.edu.