Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship grant opportunity supports Brown University graduate students who seek to conduct pre-dissertation or dissertation research abroad during one summer or academic year semester. Award recipients expanding Brown’s global reach will contribute to the institution’s mission of discovering, communicating, and preserving knowledge. To be competitive, research projects must build upon the University’s integrative themes and yield tangible outcomes. The Graduate School and Office of Academic Development, Inclusion, and Diversity have partnered with the Office of Global Engagement to fund this opportunity.

Eligibility:
● Any graduate student enrolled in a Brown University Ph.D. program who is active in a preliminary or dissertation research project, including but not limited to fieldwork, archival research, scientific experiments with large international facilities or individual laboratories of collaborators, is eligible. Award is open to all disciplines. Post-docs are not eligible for support;
● Geographic area for research activity is open but preference will be given to research conducted in Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Andean region, and the Caribbean;
● Graduate students seeking support must demonstrate that the proposed research aligns with one (or more) of the seven themes of integrative scholarship and education, as described in the University’s strategic plan, Building on Distinction: A New Plan for Brown, and outlined as follows:
   1. Cultivating Creative Expression
   2. Understanding the Human Brain
   3. Sustaining Life on Earth
   4. Creating Peaceful, Just, and Prosperous Societies
   5. Exploring Human Experience
   6. Using Science and Technology to Improve Lives
   7. Deciphering Disease and Improving Population Health

Award Specifications and Conditions:
Awards support graduate-level research abroad for a period of three months during the summer to one academic semester and range between $9,000 and $13,000 depending on the region where research will be conducted and the length of in-country stay. Award funds apply to reasonable and necessary costs of conducting research abroad. Allowable expenses include: round-trip economy international air travel, visas, accommodations, and subsistence costs. Awards do not support travel to conferences or support anyone other than the grantee.
Selection Criteria:
Proposals will be considered and evaluated by a committee of faculty and administrators who will make award recommendations to the Associate Provost for Global Engagement. Reviewers will consider the following criteria to evaluate proposals: 1) the scholarly merit and intellectual significance of the proposed research, including impact on the applicant’s broader academic field of study, and adherence to the University’s defined integrative themes; 2) the clarity of proposed research questions, feasibility of the work plan, and justification for research at the proposed international site; 3) the evidence demonstrating prior or desired research activities at the proposed institution abroad or with scholar(s) at that institution; 4) the concrete plan for research outcomes and where appropriate, the project’s previous record of success; 5) the reasonableness of the proposed budget in relation to projected results. Only current research projects of exceptional value or proposed research activity of exceptional promise will be funded. Retroactive travel grants (i.e. grants to be applied toward travel already completed or in process at the time of submission of the proposal) cannot be supported. Students may be awarded only one Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship grant during their graduate studies at Brown.

Number of Awards:
Four summer scholarships and up to five semester-long scholarships per academic year.

Application Deadline:
Applications must be submitted to the Office of Global Engagement no later than September 25, 2015. International research activities may occur in spring 2016 semester, summer 2016, or fall 2016 semester.

Questions?
Please direct inquiries for this grant opportunity to Global Relations Officer, Christine Sprovieri.

Application Requirements:
Applicants are expected to submit the following as a single document in PDF format:

- Cover sheet with the applicant’s name, title, graduate program, and contact information; title of the proposal; and a 250-word abstract describing the proposed research project;
- Proposal narrative (not to exceed 5 pages) that summarizes the relevant background literature and research, thereby placing the project into context, to ensure significant contribution in the graduate student’s field of study. The applicant should describe the project in terms that do not require reviewers to be experts in the area of proposed research. The description should include the goals of the research project including with which integrative theme(s) the project aligns as well as the rationale for the need to spend an extended period at the international site, the activities to be carried out to achieve those goals, and an explanation of how the applicant’s project will strengthen and advance an existing Brown global partnership, or foster a new collaborative relationship with a non-Brown partner;
- Detailed work plan for completing the activities outlined in the project narrative, including a timeline of how/when the research will be carried out;
- Detailed budget outlining projected cost of transportation, per diem (for meals and incidentals only), accommodations (use hotel rates; lodging per diem not allowed), and justifying budget request. The budget request should be aligned with region and duration of project costs;
- Formal letter or email of invitation from the hosting institution (if not in English, please provide translation);
- Letter of endorsement by your graduate program advisor or chair of the department;
- Letter of support from foreign collaborator(s) (only if applicable);
- Curriculum Vitae.

**Reporting requirements:**
The grantee must submit a final report to the OGE and Graduate School within one month of returning from the research abroad trip, summarizing the work accomplished during the fellowship period (maximum 2 pages) and a brief abstract (maximum 200 words) of the report, written in a style that is clearly understandable to a non-specialist.

**Award Disbursements:**
Half of the award amount will be provided in advance of overseas travel (once receipts of travel expenses incurred are submitted). The remaining half of the award funds will be disbursed upon receipt of the final report or earlier, depending on the establishment of a mutually agreed submission date for the report (not to exceed 3 months post-return).

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

*I am planning to conduct research in multiple destinations as part of my research project, is this allowable?*

The **Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research** supports your international travel from your first point of departure (e.g., Providence, RI or Boston, MA) to your first international destination and a return from your final international destination back to your original point of departure. No in-country or regional flights between multiple airports will be supported by this grant.

*Is it possible for a grantee to apply for support for more than one academic semester as stipulated in the grant guidelines?*

Only under extenuating circumstances will a graduate student be considered for an international stay that exceeds one academic semester. To be considered for this, detailed justification as to why extended research needs to be conducted will be required.
How often can I apply for **Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research** if I was an award recipient of this grant opportunity in the past?
Funds are limited and are awarded in accordance with set criteria, which include the intellectual merit, impact, and significance of the research project proposed. Previous awardees under this grant opportunity are not eligible to apply again.

I would like to broaden my research and meet with colleagues in Beijing. However, the scope of my research plan does not currently align with any of the University’s integrative themes. Am I still eligible for this grant opportunity?
Because funds for this opportunity are limited and the integrative themes are broad, only proposals that clearly fit within the purview of the themes will be considered eligible. In addition, the OGE’s strategic goal is to cultivate and strengthen current partnerships as well as create new partnership opportunities abroad. To support this approach, the University’s strategic plan, *Building on Distinction: A New Plan for Brown* explicitly outlines the seven integrative themes as a means to “leverage existing and new partnerships with public and private institutions locally and abroad, and foster creative scholarship that has a positive impact not only on the Brown campus but also in the community, the nation, and the world.” As such, the **Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research** seeks to underscore the importance of this integrative scholarship by only funding proposals that support one (or more) of the seven themes.

If I apply for the **Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research** at this deadline, when can my research abroad take place?
Applicants who receive funding for proposals submitted by the **September 25, 2015** deadline must complete their research either in spring 2016 semester, summer 2016, or fall 2016 semester.