Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship grant opportunity supports Brown University doctoral students who seek to conduct pre-dissertation or dissertation research abroad during one summer or academic semester. Expanding Brown’s global reach, award recipients 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. In addition, as part of its strategic mission, the OGE wishes to support sustainable links with current institutional partners and develop potential new institutional partners, and as such, it is expected that grantees will serve as Global Brown Ambassadors by contributing to Brown’s visibility abroad. 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 Brown University graduate student enrolled in a Ph.D. program, and 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; applications for research conducted in Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Andean region, and the Caribbean are encouraged;
● 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 doctoral-level research abroad for a period of three months during the summer or one academic semester. Students will receive an award of $9000 for summer research and $13,000 for one academic semester. The award will be in lieu of the student’s regular academic semester stipend or of any summer stipend the student may receive and will not extend the five-year guarantee. Students will be awarded tuition, health insurance, and health services fee as applicable. The award total includes travel. Students will be required to submit a final report within one month of the conclusion of the award period.
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 justification 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 OGEgradresearch@brown.edu no later than March 18, 2015. International research activities may occur in summer or fall 2015, or spring 2016.

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

Sample Project Descriptions:

Project A:
- Summer Graduate Research Project
- Integrative Theme: Using Science and Technology to Improve Lives

A 3rd year Materials Science doctoral student is traveling to Kuala Lumpur to conduct research on a nanomanufacturing in collaboration with a colleague of her Brown dissertation advisor at the Nanotechnology & Catalysis Research Centre (NANOCAT) at Universiti Malaya. The grantee will remain on-site for three months over the summer to gather necessary information that will inform an article on atomic layer epitaxy she is co-authoring with her advisor in Nature Nanotechnology. While at NANOCAT, she will collaborate with scholars from two separate nanotechnology labs in order to expand upon her research network. Funds from the Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship will support her round-trip travel from Boston to Kuala Lumpur, accommodations, transportation, and food and incidentals while in Malaysia.
Project B:

- One Academic Semester Graduate Research Project
- Integrative Theme: Exploring Human Experience

A 4th year graduate student in Comparative Literature has been awarded a Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship to conduct research for one academic semester focusing on linguistic, social, and cultural representations of illness and disease in Quechua and Aymara literature. She will work with scholars at Tupac Katari Aymara University and Casimiro Huanca Quechua University as well as several archival sites in Bolivia to review manuscripts that have not been digitized or accessible remotely. Her fieldwork in Bolivia will enable her to expand upon her dissertation research and ensure completion of one of her dissertation chapters. Funds from the Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship will cover her round-trip travel from Boston to La Paz, accommodations, transportation, food and incidentals, as well as visa fees while in Bolivia. Her Brown advisor has also connected her with collaborators in La Paz and Sucre to provide in-kind translation assistance in order to facilitate her research work.

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 of research time at the international site, the activities to be carried out to achieve the proposed goals, and a work plan for completing said activities;
- **Detailed budget** justification outlining projected use of award. The budget should include reasonable and necessary costs of conducting research abroad, including cost of round-trip economy international air travel, visas, accommodations, and per diem subsistence amounts.
- **Formal letter or email of invitation** from the hosting institution (if not in English, please provide translation);
- **Letter of endorsement** from your graduate dissertation 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:**
Award grantees will receive $9,000 for summer research and $13,000 for one academic semester, including all travel, dispersed monthly through the Payroll Office. Grantees may submit their economy airfare receipt with proof of payment before the start of the summer or semester for reimbursement. The remaining award amount will be disbursed monthly. Summer grantees and some international semester grantees are especially advised to consider this option to limit potential tax withholdings on their travel expenses.

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**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 Fellowship** 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?*

No. Since the Graduate School will be covering your medical insurance and tuition, the maximum time allowed for this grant is one academic semester.

*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. 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**
Fellowship grant opportunity responds to the call for integrative scholarship and only supports proposals that address one (or more) of the seven themes.

If I apply for the Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship at this deadline, when can my research abroad take place? Applicants who receive funding for proposals submitted by the March 18, 2015 deadline must complete their research either in summer or fall semester 2015 or spring 2016 semester.

If I receive a Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship award, can I also apply for the Graduate School’s International Travel Fund? Grantees are not eligible to apply for additional travel funds through the International Travel Fund as the award covers travel and subsistence costs. The budget justification of the award amount should include an estimate of anticipated travel costs.

If I receive a Global Mobility Program: Graduate Research Fellowship award for a period of an academic semester can I extend my five-year funding guarantee by a semester? If I receive a summer award and would have received a summer stipend, can I defer my summer stipend to a later summer? No. The award does not extend the five-year funding guarantee and is given in lieu of any summer or academic semester stipend. It gives grantees the opportunity to use their support off-site at an international location.

I only need to conduct research abroad for one month. Is it possible for a grantee to apply for support for a shorter period of research, rather than the three-month summer or one academic semester stipulated in the grant guidelines? No. The program is designed to make possible extended international research activities.