

Example 1: SRG Application, Spring 2014

Languages, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies Student

Proposal

Background

I am applying for the GPSA Student Research Grant to fund my trip to present my research at the International Journal of Arts and Sciences (IJAS) Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from March 17 to March 20, 2014.

I am a PhD candidate in my final semester in the Department of Language Literacy and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS), in the College of Education. My academic concentration is Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). I chose this field because I wanted to empower individuals by helping them learn English. I joined this PhD program because I am interested in conducting research on English as a Second Language (ESL) refugee students in American mainstream classrooms.

I have completed my coursework, passed my comprehensive examination, and presented my dissertation proposal with outstanding GPA 3.66. After completing the fieldwork for my study, currently I am writing the manuscript and will be defending my dissertation towards the end of this semester.

The international Journal of Arts and Sciences (IJAS) Conference is an interdisciplinary conference that aims to provide opportunity for scholars and graduate students from all over the world to present and possibly publish their research. It also aims to help academics to receive feedback on their research and to network with professionals nationwide and internationally for the sake of enhancing of their research capabilities.

I have submitted a paper titled “Modernization, Islam and the Story of English in Egypt” and it was accepted by blind review to be presented in the conference.

Benefits

The paper presents a genuine research which examines how economic interests and modernization motives helped the spread of English in the largest country in the Middle East, Egypt. Such finding is very significant for the academic community as it shows how economic and modernization ambitions might drive communities to promote the language of their previous colonizers.

Presenting this paper is a good opportunity for me to present my work and to represent UNM in this international conference. Since this paper is co-authored with a professor from the College of Education at UNM, it shows the interest of UNM’s faculty and graduate students in the affairs of the international community represented in our interest in investigating issues of English language, modernity and democratization in the Middle East.

At this final stage of my PhD studies, it is important for me to present my work in academic conferences in order to find a job within academia. It is also essential for me to network with publishers and job recruiters nationally and internationally. This conference is attended by delegates who seek papers to get published and seek to hire professionals in their respective disciplines. Consequently, attending this conference is a good opportunity to get this paper as well other research papers to get published through networking with publishers. It is also a good opportunity for me to meet and network with employers at the final semester of my doctoral studies.

Budget

| Budget Item | Description | Amount | Funded by PDG | Other Sources of Funding | Other Sources |
|-------------------------|---|---------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Registration Fee | To register for the conference | \$282.5 | \$282.5 | OGS and COE | \$0 |
| Car fare | To rent a car (shared with two other colleagues) to drive back and forth to Las Vegas, Nevada | \$47.99 | \$47.99 | OGS and COE | \$0 |
| Car Fuel | gas for the car | \$40.52 | \$40.52 | OGS and COE | \$0 |
| Lodging | To share a hotel room with two other colleagues in Las Vegas, Nevada, for 3 nights | \$123 | \$123 | OGS and COE | \$0 |
| Food | Food during the trip | \$80 | \$0 | OGS and COE | \$0 |

Further Budget Explanation

I need 494.01 to cover the registration fee (282.50), car fare (about \$47.99), car fuel (estimated: \$40.52), lodging (estimated: 123). I applied for the College of Education and Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) funding to cover membership fees (\$90) and food expenses (estimated: \$80).

Distance from New Mexico to Las Vegas, Nevada is 575 miles. Camry 2014 runs on about 35 miles/gallon on the highway, so the round trip needs about 16.43 gallons.

Using gasbuddy.com the average gas gallon in New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada is \$3.7. The total fuel cost fuel is \$121.57. This will be divided by three of us on the trip, so my share will be \$40.52.

For transportation, I will carpool with two other colleagues who are going to the same conference. We will drive a Camry 2014 because of its low gas consumption. Car fare is about \$35.99 per day with total of \$143.96 for the whole 4-day trip. This will be divided by three, so my share will be \$47.99.

Using priceline.com, we are staying the cheapest hotel close to the University of Las Vegas Nevada (UNLV) where the conference will be held. The rate of the hotel is \$119 per night. The total cost of the 3 nights is 357. My share will be \$119. It is worth mentioning that the hotel rates during the days of the Spring Break, when the conference will be held, are higher than the usual rates.

Example 2: SRG Application, Spring 2014

English Student

Proposal

I am a first-year doctoral candidate in American Literary Studies in the department of English Language and Literature. I study 19th century American literature and Native American literature. My scholarship bridges these two subfields to examine how 19th century American genre studies, specifically Gothic literature, compares to Native American Gothic fiction, to examine the ways in which their politics and generic forms are mutually informative. This is important to the field of Native American literary criticism because at a time when many critics still approach Indigenous literature through an anthropological lens, questions of genre are seldom raised within Native literature. My research aims to show the ways in which the choices the author makes in regards to genre and form are indeed political, and important to examine in the midst of the many ethnographic approaches to Native literature. The research presented at these conferences represents my most recent research, the Indigenous Gothic novel, which was the subject of my master's thesis and will be the topic of my dissertation.

I seek to receive financial support as a reimbursement for my travel to two conferences: the annual Modern Language Association (MLA) held in Chicago, IL from January 9th-12th, 2014, and the Native American Literature Symposium (NALS), held in Minneapolis, MN from March 27th-29th, 2014. In regards to the first, the MLA is the largest and most prestigious conference of the field of English literature. I was honored to be accepted into two panels at the conference. In the first panel, entitled "Native Voices in Genre Fiction," I presented my essay entitled "Indigenizing the Gothic Novel: Harold Johnson's Backtrack and Its Uncanny Conventions" along with three other panels who presented similar research in comparing genre studies to Native literature. Presenting on this panel was an extremely valuable experience in being able to listen and converse with other scholars with similar research interests and to ask them questions about common research strategies.

In regards to the second panel, I was able to chair a panel of scholars, from a post-doctorate to a distinguished professor, and listen to their current research in topics extremely similar to my own. I gained practice in leadership skills, creating questions for the panelists, and conducting the panel in a timely manner. These skills have immediately benefited me, as I was recently asked to conduct another panel of prestigious scholars at the UNM's Indigenous Book Festival.

In addition, I benefited from attending the MLA because many of the panels also provided essential job market and professional student information. For example, the conference provided me with a list of thirty-nine "Sessions of Interest to Graduate Students" that range from "Myth Busting the Job Search" to "Rethinking the Seminar Paper." I attended as many of these sessions as possible in order to develop professionally as a student and future tenure-track scholar. These sessions will provide me with the information I need to compete successfully in the challenging job market of my field.

To save on expenses, I elected to attend the MLA for only three days and three nights out of the possible scheduled four days and five nights. I also chose the least expensive MLA-sponsored hotel room, out of a possible twelve hotels, for a single person attending the conference, and I elected to navigate Chicago’s public transit system, rather than the more convenient taxi service, to save on additional expenses.

The Native American Literature Symposium is a smaller conference, but the most important research and networking opportunity of the year for scholars of Indigenous literature. At NALS, I was accepted to present my essay entitled, “Regionalism, Nationalism, and the Gothic: A.A. Carr’s Eye Killers and Indigenous Literary Aesthetics.” This research represents another future chapter of my dissertation, and it will be important for me to receive feedback on it at these early stages from the community of scholars at NALS.

To save on expenses, I am traveling to NALS with two other graduate students and we are sharing a hotel room. These students are both in the English M.A. program with interest in Native American literature, and I mentored them to choose this venue as their first conference experience.

Budget

| Budget Item | Description | Amount | Funded by PDG | Other Sources of Funding | Other Sources |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|---------------|--|---------------|
| MLA--Airfare | Roundtrip Airfare from Albuquerque to Chicago-O’Hare (American Airlines) | \$394.6 | \$394.6 | None | \$0 |
| MLA--Hotel | MLA-sponsored hotel, Palmer House Hilton, at conference discount rate of \$132 per night for 3 nights, plus tax | \$460.95 | \$105.40 | Modern Language Association Student Travel Grant | \$355.55 |
| MLA--Per Diem | Per Diem (current Chicago per diem is \$70)— 1/08/14--\$23 1/09/14-- \$51.33 1/10/14-- \$33.10 | \$107.43 | \$0 | Modern Language Association Student Travel Grant | \$107 |
| MLA--Conference registration | Conference registration at graduate student rate | \$55 | \$0 | Modern Language Association Student Travel Grant | \$55 |
| MLA--Local travel | Local travel (public transit by train)—CTA 7-Day pass | \$33 | \$0 | None | \$0 |

Further Budget Explanation

Although my total budget exceeds the \$500 maximum amount granted by the SRG, I included the full budget amount of my expenses to show a compelling picture of my financial need. Thank you for your consideration.

Example 3: SRG Application, Spring 2014

Biology Student

Proposal

Introduction:

I have accepted the invitation to present a portion of my dissertation research project, *The Effects of Catastrophic Forest Fire on Submerged Aquatic Macrophytes in a Mountain Stream*, at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) in Portland, OR, held on May 18-24, 2014. This is a rare invitation and a great honor for a professional in the field, much less for a graduate student who recently became a PhD candidate. I am requesting \$500 to partially cover the cost of travel and registration to present my invited paper. This meeting is a rare joint meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science (SFS), the Phycological Society of America (PSA), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, (ASLO) and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS).

Research Background: The presence or absence of aquatic macrophytes fundamentally influences aquatic ecosystems. Submerged aquatic macrophytes (SAMs), plants that are specially adapted to complete their whole life cycle under water, strongly impact stream ecosystems because of their extensive interaction with the water column. SAMs uptake key nutrients (e.g., nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P)) directly from the water column through their leaves and shoots. Therefore, SAMs can be excellent water quality bioindicators, or a living organism that can be used as a gauge for if water conditions are good or bad. They act as an underwater 'forest' of sorts, providing habitat, food and refuge for animals in the same aquatic system.

High-severity fires negatively impact aquatic systems. These negative effects occur when rain events move ash, soil, and nutrients from the land into the water. The impacts of forest fire on stream ecosystems have been well studied worldwide, including the western US. Few studies have examined the direct effects of fire on aquatic plants, and none have specifically looked at how these impacts affect SAMs. One of the most well-known fire effects is the addition of nutrients from the fire ash and burned soils into the aquatic systems through rain and snowmelt. In many aquatic systems, these nutrients that wash into the system are often scarce and considered to be limiting nutrients—their scarcity sets limits on how well the plants can grow. These nutrient inputs can act like adding fertilizer to the system, changing the amount of available nutrients.

Benefits to Applicant: JASM organizers invited me to present at this meeting because my research corresponds directly with the goals of each of these societies and expands the information on freshwater systems. I will be networking at the conference with Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Director, President, and Senior Research Scientist at the Stroud Water Research Center, the major organization in the U.S. to advance global knowledge and stewardship of fresh water ecosystems. Since each of these societies has members worldwide, including many in non-academic positions, presenting at this conference will also allow me to confirm my working relationship with Dr. Tenna Riis, professor of Aquatic Biology at Aarhus University (Denmark), who has invited me to collaborate with and travel to their labs in Denmark this summer as well as present at this conference.

Benefits to UNM: Presenting my work that was conducted in New Mexico on an international stage will reaffirm UNM's position in the forefront of freshwater research programs. Further the presentation will highlight the most current information about some of the ecological consequences of the catastrophic Las Conchas fire (2011) because my work is conducted on the Jemez River, a key water source to multiple pueblos, municipalities, and a major tributary to the Middle Rio Grande in NM. Upon returning to UNM, I will share my experiences with my colleagues, thus enhancing their insights into this research field.

Benefits to Society: My research focuses on freshwater ecosystems, a key resource humans use in every aspect of their lives. The implications of my research are international and timely as global climate change, massive wildfires and continuing droughts critically endanger freshwater sources worldwide. My research can contribute to improving environmental assessment techniques that can assist in the maintenance of healthy water systems. As surface waters are becoming increasingly critical to meet human water supplies, maintaining the health of these water sources will be crucial to the survival and prosperity for future generations.

Budget

| Budget Item | Description | Amount | Funded by PDG | Other Sources of Funding | Other Sources |
|---|--|--------|---------------|--|---------------|
| Abstract Submission Fee (Student) | Abstract submission fee, Student Rate | \$30 | \$0 | SFS GEF | \$30 |
| JASM Conference Registration Fee (Student) | Conference Registration fee, Student Rate | \$275 | \$142 | BGSA GRAC, GPSA SRC, out of pocket | \$133 |
| Airfare (ABQ - > PDX) | Round trip airfare from Albuquerque to Portland, OR-- 5/17-23/2014 | \$358 | \$358 | GPSA SRG | \$0 |
| Lodging (Conference Hotel, Crown Plaza Portland Downtown Convention Center) | Lodging at the conference hotel, the Crown Plaza Portland Downtown Convention Center for 7 nights in a shared room (\$152/night * 7 nights / 2 people = \$532) | \$532 | \$0 | Modern Language SFS GEF Student Travel Grant | \$532 |

Further Budget Explanation

Funding Source Key:

SFS GEF = Society for Freshwater Science General Endowment Fund

GPSA SRG = UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association Student Research Grant

BGSA GRAC = BGSA Graduate Research Allocation Committee Travel Grant

Justification:

Abstract and conference fees are directly from the JASM website. Travel costs for round trip airfare was sourced from Expedia.com on 2/10/2014 for the period of 5/17-23/2014. Lodging cost is the JASM rate for the Crown Plaza Portland Downtown Convention Center provided on the JASM website and calculated for 7 nights of accommodations in a shared room (\$152/night * 7 nights / 2 people = \$532).

JASM Website: <https://www.sgmeet.com/jasm2014/default.asp>

All expenses at this time are out of pocket. Any and all funding granted from all sources will be applied to travel costs as stated above. Funding has been applied for through the Society for Freshwater Science General Endowment Fund (decision pending) and the Biology Department Graduate Research Allocation Committee (decision pending).