

PhD Student Research Grant Application

Updated June 6, 2020

The Economic Growth Center at Yale University aims to support PhD students enrolled in the Economics program at Yale University in undertaking travel and field research related to themes of international development in pursuit of their dissertation requirements. Applicants may receive a maximum of two grants from EGC during their time as a graduate student at Yale. Covid-response dissertation fieldwork assistance funding in AY20-21 does not count towards this maximum.

All else equal, priority will be given to graduate students who have not previously received grant funding. Prior awardees are listed here: <https://egc.yale.edu/past-research-award-recipients>

These instructions apply to the following, with budget limits and additional requirements as indicated.

- 1. The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Syfff) Research Awards:** Open to all economics doctoral students at Yale in the third year or later.
 - Budget limit: \$25,000 (with the anticipation that most grants will not be more than \$10,000).
 - Timeline: Applications for these awards will be accepted until April 1 and October 1 of each year, and winners announced as soon thereafter as possible. A committee of faculty of the Economic Growth Center will meet twice a year to make these allocations as funds permit.
 - Additional requirements: Applicants should also apply for an external grant for any research costs in excess of \$10,000 (to SSRC, NSF, NIH, YCIAS, etc.), and include a copy of this grant application with the grant application.
- 2. Evenson Fund Travel Research Awards:** Specifically, for data collection and travel to less-developed countries.
 - Budget limit: \$5,000
 - Timeline: Rolling deadline.
- 3. EGC Covid-response Fund:** During the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, EGC has opened an additional funding opportunity for Yale economics doctoral students whose current international research activities (including fieldwork, data archive work in other countries etc) in support of their dissertation requirements has been disrupted due to the pandemic. This fund will be active through (at least) end of academic year 2020-21 consider proposals that request grant funding for immediate use for research related activities in international development. Example research activities include (but are not limited to): redesigning fieldwork to be compliant with C19 requirements (e.g. converting an in-person survey to an online or phone survey), exploring alternative avenues of research (for instance, purchase of administrative data) and/or hiring local RAs to bring ongoing projects to successful completion. All activities would need to be compliant with current Yale guidance on C19 work.
 - a. Budget limit: \$5,000 (with a willingness to consider higher amounts in case of new projects being proposed)
 - b. Timeline: Rolling deadline.
 - c. Additional requirements: Include in the proposal narrative 1) how original research has been disrupted by the pandemic, 2) how the funding will enable either original project

to be brought to successful completion or help develop alternative research program and 3) how the work that is being proposed ahead can be conducted responsibly and safely in the current global environment.

4. EGC PhD dissertation research grant

- a. Budget limit: \$25,000
- b. Timeline: Rolling deadline.

Instructions

Please submit the following to egc@yale.edu as a single PDF with accompanying budget excel file.

Cover Sheet – The cover sheet is available at <https://egc.yale.edu/graduate-student-support> under “EGC Research Awards”.

Narrative – The narrative should not exceed two pages in length, including appendices, using 12 point font. It should include a concise statement on proposed research topic. Some projects may be very preliminary, exploratory research in which case the research design is not expected to be fully developed, but in this case highlight the potential research opportunities. Also include any proposed partners (such as in-country research organizations or policy counterparts) and how this project aims to fulfill PhD dissertation requirements.

- 1) **Budget** – A project budget using the Excel template provided online at the same location as the coversheet mentioned above.

Budget notes:

- a. Proposed budgets are all intended to be used within one year of grant award. A one-time extension of up to 6 months may be allowed with a justification supported by your faculty advisor and approved by EGC leadership. Travel grants are expected to be no more than \$5,000.
- b. *Travel costs* are provided as reimbursements in accordance with Yale travel policies¹. These expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of an expense report following the trip. Instead of requesting reimbursement for meal expenses and incidentals, a per diem stipend of up to \$25/day can be claimed to cover food and miscellaneous expenses. It is expected that the per diem would approximate actual expenses of traveling, for which a narrative justification may be requested.
- c. *Survey and other in-country expenses*: Grant funding can be used to cover expenses for in-country costs such as hiring enumerators, procuring translation or transcription services, developing instruments, and others. These expenses can either be 1) paid by the grantee and then reimbursed upon submission of an expense report or 2) contracted through a local research organization or survey firm, which would submit invoices to be paid directly by Yale. Please indicate in your budget notes the name of any local organization or survey firm that you would plan to be paid directly for the proposed work.

¹ <https://your.yale.edu/policies-procedures/policies/3301-travel-university-business#3301.3>

- d. *Medical insurance and vaccines:* All grantees are required to provide proof of emergency medical insurance coverage before travel, which may also be included in the budget for reimbursement if additional costs are incurred.² Grantees may also include costs for vaccines required to travel to the proposed research location if these are not covered by your health insurance.³
 - e. *Expenses not allowed:* EGC is not able to cover PhD student effort or teaching buy-out, Co-PI effort, travel or trip protection insurance, or lost luggage insurance.
 - f. *Other expenses:* If there are other costs not mentioned in the categories above, then include it in the “other expenses” line with a budget note explanation and EGC will determine in the review process if the cost is allowable.
 - g. For awarded grants, any variation from the initial budget of \$2500+ or 20% of any line item, whichever is greater, must be approved by EGC.
- 2) **Budget Narrative** - Please include a brief budget narrative document detailing the major costs within the budget and how they support the planned research agenda. For example, travel costs should include a breakdown of how many trips are planned, how the costs were calculated for the trip and why each of those trips is valuable for the research plan.
 - 3) **Letter of Support** – A letter of support from your faculty advisor which reflects support for pursuing this project.

Other requirements:

- A) **Reporting.** A final report will be required within 3 months of the completion of funded activities or within 18 months of the award date, whichever is earlier. The report will be required to include:
 - 1) A narrative summary of learnings from the activities funded under the grant.
 - 2) A summary of research plans ahead, building on the activities funded by the grant.
 - 3) A **financial report** of how funds were spent against the initial budget.
- B) **Presentation.** Each grantee who receives funds for field work (ie more than a \$5000 exploratory research travel grant) will be required to present on their research project at the relevant EGC lunch workshop.
- C) **IRB approval** will be required for any project that uses data from human subjects in accordance with Yale policies.⁴
- D) A **Data Use Agreement (DUA)** for data received from other organizations with some restrictions on its use will be required where relevant in accordance with Yale policies.⁵ Note that all DUAs must be reviewed by Yale’s OSP.

² Note that insurance is provided by Yale. For more information on insurance visit <https://world-toolkit.yale.edu/resources-topic/travel/insurance-summary>.

³ For additional travel guidelines, visit: <https://your.yale.edu/work-yale/campus-services/travel/international-travel>

⁴ <https://your.yale.edu/research-support/human-research/yale-irbs-yale-university-institutional-review-boards/submission-4>

⁵ <https://your.yale.edu/research-support/office-sponsored-projects/contracts/data-use-agreements-duas>