Undergraduate Sustainable Development Research Funding for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

In order to understand the dynamics of globalization and the interconnectedness of our social and natural systems, students are encouraged to venture out of the classroom to experience and research these issues in the field. The Global Fellows in Sustainable Development Program enables The Earth Institute, Columbia University, through a generous gift, to support field research for current Columbia University undergraduates studying sustainable development, either in the special concentration or the major. These experiential opportunities will provide students with an opportunity to hone skills and explore questions raised in the classroom. The experiential learning piece of the curriculum provides an opportunity for student research and contextual application of classroom education.

The grant supports this experiential learning piece so as to provide an opportunity for students to undertake fieldwork, research assistantship or internship opportunities off campus but related to their sustainable development studies. This program will ensure that the challenges presented by globalization are not abstract ideas, and that students are able to gain practical experience in the critical areas of sustainable development they have studied.

Application Instructions:

Deadlines
Fall 2015 application deadline is: October 26, 2015
Spring/Summer 2016 application deadline is: February 15, 2016

Requirements
Funding will only be awarded for fieldwork explicitly related to a project that fulfills a requirement for your degree and/or furthers your studies in Sustainable Development. For example, travel can be for projects that are needed to complete studios, workshops, theses, senior seminar projects, independent studies or other degree requirements. Non-program related SEE-U fees and non-CU study abroad programs focused on field research and sustainable development are eligible for funding. It can also be used towards extracurricular research activities to be combined with the SEE-U program or study abroad.

Students must follow all application instructions and adhere to deadlines.

Only current, full-time CU students in the Undergraduate Program in Sustainable Development who are in good academic standing will be considered. Please note that applications will be reviewed based upon the relationship of the travel to your major or special concentration in sustainable development. Before submitting an application, students are required to review travel information and country-specific travel warnings as well as review health insurance information with the healthcare provider for their trip. Awardees will also be required to have adequate health insurance and travel insurance that covers MEDIvAC in the event that they need it. Students will also be required to attend a pre-departure meeting at the Earth Institute and other relevant pre-departure orientations sponsored by Columbia to ensure they aware of the University’s guidelines for conduct in the field.

Successful applicants will be required to participate in a presentation of their research in both a meeting with the donors and the annual Earth Institute Student Research Showcase.
Research Funding Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: ___________________________________________ UNI: ___________________________
Advisor: ___________________________ Major/Concentration: ___________________________
Telephone number: ___________________________
E-mail address: ________________________________________________________________
Degree program/year: ____________________________________________________________

Total number of credits completed: ___________ Are you a transfer student? YES ☐ NO ☐
Cumulative GPA: ___________

(To be eligible for participation in an approved study abroad program, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA.)

Semester(s) planning to study abroad: FALL ☐ SPRING ☐ FULL YEAR ☐

ACADEMIC MAJOR

How many courses have you completed for your major/concentration? ___________________________
How many major/concentration courses remain? ___________________________
Have you discussed your study abroad plans with your department? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST PROGRAM OF INTEREST, INTERNSHIP NAME OR RESEARCH PROJECT

Name: ___________________________________________
Location: _______________________________________________________________

ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY STANDING

Have you ever been on academic or disciplinary probation? Academic probation: YES ☐ NO ☐
Disciplinary probation: YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES to either of the above, be prepared to discuss this with program staff.

SPECIAL NEEDS  Please indicate if you have any special needs.

_____ Non-U.S. citizen  _____ Disability  _____ Medical Needs / On Medication
**MEDICAL ISSUES**  Studying, research and/or work abroad is an adventure for both the mind and the body. In order to ensure that students remain healthy and productive while abroad, we ask that you disclose and discuss any ongoing medical issues you have. Understanding the accessibility of treatment and support in your future host country and coordinating ongoing care between your providers here and overseas are vital steps to this end. Disclosure on this form allows program personnel to help you with this process. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will be used only to aid in advising you.

Do you have any medical or psychological conditions? If so, please check this box so that we can discuss your needs for taking care of yourself:  

- [ ] YES  
- [ ] NO

**Additional Information**

Explanation of how field research project fits sustainable development course requirements (if it pertains to a course):

Explanation of how travel fits into the sustainable development degree/special concentration requirements:

My signature below indicates that the information provided is correct and that I have taken the appropriate steps to plan out the remaining core, major, and elective classes toward fulfilling my degree requirements.

Student Signature __________________________________________ Date ______________

**STUDY ABROAD DEAN:** Please verify the information provided and sign below indicating Columbia’s approval to study abroad for this student (See Dean Scott Carpenter, 606 Kent Hall).

Dean Signature __________________________________________ Date ______________
Documents to submit in addition to this application:

- 1 page description of your research project/research assistantship/internship/program
- Proposed budget for project
- Updated resume
- Faculty Sponsor/Employer Approval Form
- One letter of recommendation from a Columbia University faculty member
- Updated transcript

Applications must be sent in with all forms together in a single envelope or e-mail.

Electronic applications should be e-mailed to jsotomayor@ei.columbia.edu with “Application for Sustainable Development Research Funding” in the title.

Hard copy applications should be submitted to:

Jessica Sotomayor or Natalie Unwin-Kuruneri
Undergraduate Program in Sustainable Development
Earth Institute, 2910 Broadway, New York, NY 10025

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Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.