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PURPOSE
To provide grants to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students participating in service-learning and/or community-based research activities that address complex social issues and effect positive social change.

Community-Engaged Student Travel Grants are intended to support student travel that enables participation in:
  • course-based service activities (faculty-led);
  • team-based learning and research projects;
  • mentored internships;
  • team-based consulting projects.

Community-Engaged Student Travel Grants are not intended to support:
  • research and scholarship with relevance to the doctoral dissertation;
  • support for undergraduate research;
  • conference travel;
  • faculty projects.

Opportunities for other types of funding are listed on the Engaged Cornell funding page.

Learn more about the Community-Engaged Student Travel Grants at an upcoming information session or contact us with questions.

ELIGIBILITY
Cornell undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in any major or graduate field are eligible to apply.

Students are limited to one community-engaged grant per semester.

Students in the final semester of school are not eligible to apply for funds. Students are not eligible to receive funds to support community-engagement taking place after their graduation.

FUNDING
Awards will be up to $750.

Grant awards are disbursed in the winter (December to January) or summer sessions (June to August) and are not renewable.

Applicants should make their case for the use of funds most appropriate to their need.
APPLYING FOR A COMMUNITY-ENGAGED STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the Office of Engagement Initiatives at any time and should use this contact form. Learn more about Community-Engaged Student Travel Grants at information sessions.

Call for applications
January 1, 2017

Application deadline
March 1, 2017

Notification of awards
March 17, 2017

Earliest start date for approved awards
June 1, 2017
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Community engagement describes the collaboration between Cornell students, faculty, and staff and our larger communities (local, region/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. A community-engaged project is work that is developed in partnership with a community and that addresses a need or interest of the community (i.e., engagement and/or scholarship that is with, about, and for communities). (see Definitions)

Successful applications will present an understanding of the intersection of community engagement, critical reflection, and service-learning with knowledge-creation that is particular to the applicants’ major or field(s) of study.

There are four (4) parts that are key components of the application: Off-Campus Opportunities Fund (OCOF) application¹, a résumé, a written proposal, and a budget. Applicants can submit this information using the online system available through the Off-Campus Opportunities Fund application portal.

Résumé
The résumé should highlight the applicant’s preparation for the proposed engaged learning experience. Applicants should emphasize any relevant coursework, co-curricular involvement, experiences, or skills (such as language competency) that demonstrate their readiness to effectively work with the community identified in their proposal. The résumé may not exceed one page in length.

Written Proposal Requirements (no longer than 1,000 words)

1. Community-Engaged Student Travel Grant (CESTG) Proposal
   • How does your proposed community-engaged experience align with the Engaged Cornell ethos to cultivate Cornell’s commitment to community engagement in research, teaching, and practice?
2. Certificate in Engaged Leadership
   • The Certificate in Engaged Leadership is a four-stage (4-stage) critical reflection framework that complements current student activities and studies in leadership education and community engagement.
     i. Please indicate whether you are pursuing the Certificate in Engaged Leadership. Yes or No.
     ii. If you are pursuing the Certificate in Engaged Leadership, connect your anticipated learning to your engaged leadership map and the learning you have prioritized there in your Proposal.

¹ The Off-Campus Opportunity Fund (OCOF) is a common application for students seeking financial support for off-campus experiences (both domestic and international). OCOF is predominantly for short-term programs when financial aid is less available. The fund consolidates the application and awarding process of four previously distinct grants offered through the following central units: Cornell Abroad: Global Encounters Scholarship; Office of Engagement Initiatives; Global Cornell: Undergraduate Student Travel Grants; Office of Academic Diversity.
Initiatives (OADI): Student Individuals Funding Sponsorship
EXPECTATIONS AND DELIVERABLES

Community-Engaged Student Travel Grants grantees are required to complete the following activities and deliverables that include attending a pre-engagement workshop, during-engagement reflections, a final trip report (including social media posts), and presenting their engaged experience at the Community Engagement Showcase, held annually in the spring semester.

- Pre-engagement workshop: The workshop introduces grant recipients to critical reflection with a focus on intercultural competence and ethical practices.
- Peer Feedback: Grant recipients engage in critically reflective dialogue with trained student critical-reflection practitioners during their engaged experiences. This dialogue builds upon recipients’ critical reflection skills and offers space for examination of recipients’ proposed learning outcomes.
- Final report: Grant recipients submit a well-crafted final report using one of the prompts provided by Community-Engaged Student Travel Grant Final Report upon completion of their engaged learning experience. The final report requires the submission of several photographs and posts to social media platforms. Excerpts from these final materials may be shared publicly through public communications and reports to funders, unless the recipient requests that the materials not be shared.
- Presentation: Grant recipients participate in the annual Community Engagement Showcase during the spring following their engaged experience by presenting to members of the Cornell and local community.
BUDGET
Applicants should make their case for the use of funds most appropriate to their need.

Allowable Expenses
Potential uses of grant funds include
- program registration costs;
- cultural amenities;
- room and board;
- and/or travel expenses.

REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA
Successful travel grant applications will have specified how their project is an engaged learning and research experience that makes substantive contributions with communities to address pressing social issues and effect positive change.

Proposals will be peer reviewed by the Engaged Student Ambassadors. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Quality of Proposed Project**: Quality will be evaluated based on the clarity of the applicant’s proposed goals, outcomes, and impact. Preference will be given to credit-bearing, faculty-led programs.

2. **Potential for Student Impact**: Student impact potential will be evaluated based on the applicant’s incorporation of critical reflection, clearly articulated learning outcomes within personal, professional, and intellectual domains, and connection to applicant’s academic study or career aspirations.

3. **Potential for Community Impact**: Community impact potential will be evaluated based on the applicant’s proposed metrics for determining success or failure, demonstrated ability to identify community needs and to design a project to address those needs, and demonstrated community participation/input in project development.

4. **Feasibility and Sustainability**: Feasibility and sustainability will be evaluated based on the clarity and measurability of the applicant’s proposed goals and the demonstrated strength of the relationship between applicant and partner organization or community.
INSTRUCTIONS
Proposals must be submitted via the Off-Campus Opportunities Fund (OCOF) application and include the following information, within the space limits described on the form:
1. Name of applicant
2. Names of major and college of applicant
3. Email
4. NetID
5. Cumulative GPA
6. Total OCOF funding requested
7. Total funding requested for a CESTG
8. Name of experience to be funded (If credit bearing, please include Cornell course number.)
9. Indicate desired use of funding
   a. Community-based research/service learning
   b. Volunteer Opportunity
   c. Internship/Externship
   d. Research Assistantship/Program
   e. Other
10. Start date of experience to be funded
11. End date of experience to be funded
12. CESTG Proposal
13. Budget proposal
14. Applicant résumé