

Undergraduate International Research Application Guidelines

The George R. Muirhead Center for International Education

Central Connecticut State University

Eligibility

Matriculated CCSU undergraduates who have been admitted to or recently completed study abroad on a Central-administered Course Abroad or Partner University program are eligible to apply for a student research grant for \$300 to \$700 to support projects that engage diverse communities overseas or in the U. S. The grant opportunity is also open to groups of students who apply together for funding for a collaborative project. In all cases the funded project must be for work that will eventually receive credit and that has CCSU faculty sponsorship.

General Guidelines

In general, preference will be given to projects that connect overseas learning experiences, such as community engagement projects, service learning, or internships abroad, with CCSU degree requirements. They can support internationally-focused learning projects that are begun overseas and completed post return in local or area neighborhoods. The funds can also be used for projects that connect what is learned or initiated abroad in the arts, sciences, business, education, engineering, and technology with research that is completed upon return to campus.

Examples of community-based projects include those that address world health issues, human rights, the education of women and children, indigenous cultures, ethnic rituals and festivals, famine and the environment, community expressions of art and music, etc. Opportunities might also include engagement with local museums, galleries, archives, libraries, or art projects such as murals; they could encompass digitally-based projects; or involve interactions with government agencies, non-profit organizations, or local small businesses. They might consist of the interview of local citizens, the compilation of oral histories or digital records, the pursuit of science-based investigations, or field study conducted in international settings. Upon return, the study abroad experience may form the basis for a credit-bearing CCSU thesis, research project, internship, or capstone experience in the major.

Application Guidelines

To be considered for the research grant, an undergraduate student (or group of students) must submit:

1. *Cover Sheet* that contains the title of the project, the full name and email address of the student, the name of the faculty member(s) who sponsors the project, and the date of submission.
2. *Summary* of the project that addresses “who, what, where and how” of the project, as well as the anticipated learning goals, and specific plans for “giving back” to the CCSU community upon completion of the project. The “giving back” component might be involvement with a local ethnic community upon return to the U. S.; it could be a presentation, poster session, or web site that is open to the campus community; or consist of a post return, classroom-based project at CCSU. The summary should not exceed three (3) pages.
3. *Letter of Support* from a sponsoring faculty member. The letter of support should be submitted by a faculty member who will serve as advisor to the project; it must be a written statement and may be in the form of an email. It should be sent to Lisa Marie Bigelow at bigelow@ccsu.edu.
4. *Project Budget* – a separate page that outlines the costs associated with the project. These might include moderate on-site transportation costs, required materials, equipment, supplies necessary for the project, communication expenses, copying or publication costs, etc. Under no circumstances, may the grant be used to pay study abroad program costs (e. g. tuition, room, board, etc.).

Submission

Student research grant proposals must be complete and should be submitted to the Center for International Education (CIE) in hard-copy format and sent electronically by email to Lisa Marie Bigelow (bigelow@ccsu.edu) before the enrollment deadline for the applicable Course Abroad or Partner University program. Students with questions may direct them to Lisa Marie Bigelow.

Award of Funds

Once the application has been approved, the successful applicant will be receive a check for the amount of the grant award.

Reporting Requirement

The grant recipient will be responsible for the submission of a brief final report that summarizes the project’s activities and highlights the most important findings or achievements. The student shall be required to refund any unspent funds.