

GSO Grants- August 2020 Guidelines

Due to COVID-19, the GSO travel grant committee has had to reimagine the criteria for its grants. This is money that GRS designates to GSO, and the committee aims to distribute these funds to as many students as possible. The committee wants to emphasize that even if applicants are unable to travel for research or conferences, the travel grant committee encourages all graduate students to continue to apply for conference and research grants as the expanded criteria will fit the needs of many students.

If graduate students are unsure whether they fit within the criteria, email the GSO travel grant email (gso.travel.grants@gmail.com). The head of the committee will return your email as soon as possible.

Please see below for the guidelines for this August 1st, 2020 grant cycle:

Guidelines for Conference Grants

As always, conference grants are viable for an *entire year* starting from the date a graduate student receives the award. For example, if a graduate student receives an email on July 15th, 2020 notifying them that they received a GSO conference grant, they have until July 15th, 2021 to use it. **New COVID addendums:** if a conference is cancelled, a graduate student can apply to a similar conference with the same paper. If they are accepted to this new conference, please notify the committee immediately. Under most circumstances, the grant committee would allow you to keep the grant. In addition, if graduate students incur costs from the cancelled conference, and then have additional costs from the new conference, graduate students can use the grant to cover such reimbursements and save the rest of it for the new conference if it falls within the year-long rule.

Acceptable use of GSO conference grant funds	Please notify us if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● In-person or virtual conferences that will occur within a year that you receive the grant● Airfare, Room, Board, etc. associated with conferences● For both in-person and virtual conferences: renewal of membership required for a conference, ex. APA (Philosophy) or ESA (Biology) or other membership/fees which would be required for your participation● You received a GSO conference grant, but incurred cancellation costs when the conference was cancelled. We will allow you to use your conference grant to cover these costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Your conference is cancelled and you are applying to/have been accepted to another conference (see above)● Your conference has moved online and you will have no costs associated with it (please let us know so that we can provide funds to other fellow graduate students in financial need). The GSO application has a space for projected costs if a conference moves online

Guidelines for research grants

Just like conference grants, research grants are viable for an *entire year* starting from the date a graduate student receives the award. For example, if a graduate student receives an email on July 15th, 2020 notifying them that they received a GSO research grant, they have until July 15th, 2021 to use it.

Due to COVID-19, the GSO grant committee encourages everyone to think of “research” as more than simply travelling to a specific site. Here is a brief table example of what the GSO committee would constitute as viable for research grant funding.

Acceptable use of GSO research grant funds (these are only a few example)	Would not qualify as “research” expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Costs for image copyrights for manuscripts, articles, and dissertations. Please explain to us in this case what is typical in your field for image copyrights, and why these copyrights are a necessity rather than helpful. Examples include but are not limited to: cancellation of travel, making you unable to access a work in person for over a year; or a collection is nearby, but for health and safety reasons, you cannot access it in person. ● Cost to purchase select books that are incredibly difficult or almost impossible to access (purchasing articles that BU has no access to and HathiTrust has no access to, catalogues that are out of print and not accessible through ILL). Reference sources such as AbeBooks or Amazon for costs of the books. ● Online workshops (coding workshops, public humanities workshops) that would aid your research work. Please provide a link or screenshot to the workshop and cost. ● Costs for research materials for future research work (ex. a list of materials such as recording equipment, cameras, flashlights, metric sticks, calipers, color cards, microphones, a designated dissertation external drive). Please make sure to explain why you need to purchase this additional equipment. Examples include but are not limited to: usually you can rent this equipment easily, but now with social distancing rules it is far more expensive or even unsafe to rent such equipment; these are materials all researchers in your field typically purchase rather than rent; your lab typically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● funding <i>only</i> to cover rent ● funding <i>only</i> to cover living expenses ● funding <i>only</i> to cover personal expenses (ex. purchasing a new laptop that would be used for not only research but also personal use)

<p>can give you access to such materials but your lab is closed right now and you don't know when it will reopen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Software (such as database management software specific to your field, ex. Devonthink; qualitative data software ex. Max QDA). Here, explain whether these are standard for your field and why you need to purchase this software. For example, you typically run such software on a desktop at BU every day, and now cannot access this software reliably. This impacts your research progress.● Translation and transcription services and costs. Please explain how such services are typically used in your field.● Lab equipment and costs of analyzing samples. Please explain why you need to purchase this additional equipment or need the analysis of these samples. For example, typically, analysis of such samples can be done easily in your lab or going to Harvard or MIT, but with COVID-19, you are now incurring new additional costs you did not foresee.	
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Again, the travel grant committee acknowledges that no graduate student is in the same exact situation. If graduate students are unsure whether they fit within the criteria, email the GSO travel grant email (gso.travel.grants@gmail.com). The head of the committee will return your email as soon as possible.