Graduate School Travel Prize Guidance

Introduction

What is it for?
Conference attendance or visits to institutions of excellence e.g. archive visits or to use facilities.

Who can apply?
At the time of attending the conference or making a visit, students must be registered for a research postgraduate degree. Students in ‘thesis pending’ are not eligible to apply. Details of eligible courses can be found on our website.

Successful applicants will be required to have attended one or more Graduate School Communication and Presentation Skills training courses in advance of attending the conference, or must demonstrate that they have acquired equivalent skills training.

How much can I claim?
50% of the total amount required, up to a max of;
- £300 for visits in the UK
- £600 for overseas visits

How do I apply?
Full details on how to apply can be found on our website.

Before applying for a Travel Prize you should speak to your supervisor for advice on your application.

Note: students are only allowed one award in their postgraduate research studies. Your supervisor may know of more appropriate conferences in the future which could potentially be funded by the Travel Prize.

1. Download the application form from the Graduate School website and prepare a draft application that you can use to discuss with your supervisor.

Process Overview

After the closing date all applications are sent for consideration to the Associate Dean of the appropriate Faculty. The Associate Dean scores the application and recommends whether an awarded should be made and confirms the number of the applications to be funded. Depending on the budget for each round and the number of high quality applications, not all applications recommended for an award will receive funding.

Decisions are sent by email to the candidates listing any appropriate action required if a conditional offer has been made. If a conditional offer has been made, this will be subject to further details being provided e.g. confirmation that a paper/poster has now been accepted by the conference.
The Graduate School requests a project code from Finance and then includes it in an email to the student, supervisor and Finance contact/School Manager (as given on Section 4 of the form). The award is only valid for a limited time and the expiry date will be given in the email. Please ensure you submit your claim as soon as you return from your conference/visit.

Original receipts are needed to claim your expenses from your School, via your Finance contact. Don't forget that the award is only valid for a limited time so submit your expense claim form as soon as possible when you get back. You will need to scan the receipts and send them within 4 weeks of your visit to the travel-prize@nottingham.ac.uk

**General Guidance on Completing the Application**

**Every question on the form requires an answer!**

- The tick sheet on the front of the form is aimed to help you make sure you have completed everything.
- The marking scheme used for scoring of applications is shown for information at the back of the form.
- Please note that if no answer is given to a question a score of 0 will be given.

2. Look into the cost of the conference and how you will get there. Don't forget there may be associated costs such as visas and poster production. Collect the quotes/documents associated with the costs as evidence to be included in the application.

3. The Travel Prize doesn't fund the full cost. Look at how you will fund the outstanding amount.

4. Ensure that you have given your supervisor enough time to complete a detailed statement of support before the deadline so that you are able to scan it and include with your application. You may wish to discuss with your supervisor what will be included.

5. Your Head of School's signature is also required on the form to demonstrate your school's support for your attendance at the conference/visit. Again allow enough time for this.

6. Your completed application form must be uploaded as a single pdf document into Moodle. You must also complete the accompanying online form in Moodle.

**Section 1 Communication and Presentation Skills training courses**

It is better to have attended a GS course appropriate to your conference presentation rather than a course unfamiliar to the panel. However, if you feel the course is equivalent to those run by the Graduate School, please attach the certificate from the other institution together with confirmation from your supervisor that you are an effective presenter.

**Section 2 Visit Details**

Try to avoid trivial comments such as:
"It would be a great opportunity to meet other academics"

Instead:
- indicate what is important to you about the conference, are you meeting someone in particular and have you contacted them already? (show evidence).
- Is there anything particularly novel about the paper/poster you are presenting?
Give the panel extra reason to give you the prize. You are not limited by the space for each question, and you can continue on a new page.
Presenting a paper or poster?
If you have ticked the "Waiting Decision" box, don't forget to notify the Graduate School if your paper/poster is accepted (or rejected) with evidence such as a copy of the email or letter informing you of this decision.

Section 3 Resources Required
Itemise your travel, a full-break down of costs is required

e.g. Coach fare Nottingham - Heathrow return £15.86
Flight Heathrow to Munich return £351.10
Coach fare Munich Airport to Augsburg return €24 = £30.50
Total: £397.46

Example of inadequate detail:
e.g. Nottingham to Augsburg return £397.46

Actual quotes are needed to confirm the expenses requested and must be included in your electronic submission. Just the URL link is not sufficient. Evidence can quite often be found on the web e.g. the conference web site.

Get the maths right.
The award from the Graduate School is 50% of the total up to £300 for a visit in the UK and up to £600 for a visit outside the UK
e.g. £800 total for a UK visit will mean a request for £300 from the Graduate School
e.g. £500 total for a UK visit will mean a request for £250 from the Graduate School

Balance to be funded
You will need to provide details of how the balance will be funded. It is good if you can show that you have applied for alternative funding.

The Graduate School has a reference copy of "The Grants Register - the complete guide to postgraduate funding worldwide" which lists 3700 awards from 47 countries.
The Centre for Career Development also has a copy of the Grants Register and has Funderfinder which can be accessed via their student computers.

A contribution from your School/Department shows added support, but if there is a reason why the School/Department can't fund you, e.g. you have already used funds allocated for conference visits, this information should be given.

Section 4 – Declarations
All parts need to be filled in - including the name of the Finance Contact/ School Manager and cost centre code (4 digit code) which can be provided by the school’s finance contact. The name and cost centre code is needed when the money is transferred to the School. Your application will not be considered if this information is not included in your application.
Section 5 Statement of Supervisor

Answering "Excellent" to most of the questions is not sufficient. The supervisor needs to show that they know the student and give a full statement on the importance of the conference and the need for the student to attend as well as full details of their opinion of the student.

The statement must be signed by the supervisor and included in the application submission.