

Date of Meeting	February 25, 2025
Ruling	Constitutional

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE



BILL No. SP25-B001

Bill to Amend Policies of the Travel Grant

Author(s): Secret Permenter
Sponsor(s): Secret Permenter, Shuangting Li,
Srishti Dutta Chowdhury, Department of History

WHEREAS, The PGSG Travel Grant award amounts have not been increased in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, The cost of consumer goods, lodging, and mileage has slowly risen over the last few years¹; and

WHEREAS, The inflation rate has been holding steady at around 3% or higher since September, 2023 and has only been increasing since September, 2024²; and

WHEREAS, 2025's inflation rate is already 1% higher than it was projected to be, as a result of the increased consumer rates, which have increased by 0.5%, the fastest pace that they have risen since August, 2023³; and

WHEREAS, The university minimum Fiscal Year (FY) Graduate Student Stipend has only increased by \$4,000 per year (\$333.33 per month) since 2023⁴; and

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. And https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates-results?action=perdiems_report&fiscal_year=2025&state=IN&city=&zip=

² <https://www.statista.com/statistics/273418/unadjusted-monthly-inflation-rate-in-the-us/>

³ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/244983/projected-inflation-rate-in-the-united-states/> and <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/12/business/us-cpi-consumer-inflation-january/index.html>

⁴ <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/archive/purduetoday/releases/2023/Q2/information-regarding-graduate-student-stipend-implementation.html> and <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/2023/Q4/university-raises-stipend-minimum-again-for-phd-students/#:~:text=In%20the%20Office%20of%20the,to%20%2428%2C000%20for%20FY%20appointments.>

WHEREAS, This stipend increase is not enough to account for the increase of travel and living expenses⁵; and

WHEREAS, The current reimbursement timeline policies are too long and make it difficult for the PGSG Treasurer and GRAC chair to maintain an accurate budget; and

WHEREAS, This has made it difficult to ensure that all GRAC monies are given to graduate students; and

WHEREAS, This has put undue stress on the GRAC chair, Treasurer, and Vice Treasurer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, That PGSS amends the PGSG Travel Grant policy (Exhibit “A”) to increase the maximum award amount from \$750 to \$1,000.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that PGSS amends the PGSG Travel Grant policy to increase the Tier 2 award from \$500 to \$750.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that PGSS amends the PGSG Travel Grant Policy to decrease the grant expiration from two months post-event or award to one month.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That PGSS empowers the Travel Vice Chair and GRAC Chair to alter all other grant documents (e.g. the guidelines, webpage, and instructions) to match these policy amendments.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the PGSS empowers the Travel Vice Chair and GRAC Chair to alter the text of the Travel Grant policy document and its appendices in ways which improve its clarity, address further requests by Purdue offices, and do not alter the nature of applicant eligibility or funding.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ENACTED 6th day of *March* 2025.

Somosmita Mitra
President, PGSG

Victor Gutierrez-Schultz
Senate Chair, PGSS

⁵ <https://www.wbaa.org/purdue-news/2023-04-04/purdue-to-raise-graduate-wages-students-say-its-not-enough>

Shuangting Li
Treasurer, PGSG

Ethan Johnson
Parliamentarian, PGSG

Secret Permenter
Author

Srishti Dutta Chowdhury
Floor Sponsor, Senator for History

Certification

I, Abigail Novak, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 6th day of March 2025 by the following vote:

AYES (30): Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAE) - Arjun Rajashekar Adiga
Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) - Harsh Pathak
Agricultural Economics - Emily Forsythe
Anthropology - Taylor Symone Borgelt
Aviation and Transportation Technology (ATT) - Gustavo Sanchez Cortes
Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai
Biomedical Engineering (BME) - Mikayla Roach
Chemistry - Samson Marvellous Oladeji
Civil Engineering - Deepak Benny
Communication - Clara Elisa Hortua Alvarado
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Jacob Mishne
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) - Vincent Sassard
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) - Nimit Agarwal
Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) - Delaney Frances Jones
History - Srishti Dutta Chowdhury
Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) - Kasey Paige Riha
Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) - Can Carkoglu
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics (IMPH) - Rachana Sapkota
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Tuba Marjan
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore
Materials Engineering (MSE) - Ankit Kumar
Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring
Mechanical Engineering (ME) - Aishwary Shrivastava
Nuclear Engineering (NE) - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Rojina Thapa
Nursing – Christelle Altidor
Physics and Astronomy - Allen Roy Murray
Political Science - Sarandan Green
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Emmanuel Oluwarotimi
Sociology (SOC) - Juwen Wang

NAYS (0)

ABSENT (18): Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication (AgSEC) - Aimable Mugabo
Agronomy - Binod Joshi

Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP) - Pascal Okoye
Computer Science (CS) - Syed Hasan Amin Mahmood
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Ariana Jolie Lazo
Engineering Education - Anyerson Cuervo
English - Dylan Henderson
Food Science - Daniel Alfonso Fajardo Reyes
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) - Khadija Mbacke
Industrial Engineering - Kamelia Sepanloo
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) – Tuba Marjan
Philosophy - James Harry Day
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation (TLI) - Elnara Mammadova
Art & Design - Carolyn Guerin
Computer and Information Technology (CIT) - Khalil El Breidi
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology - Jude Tetteh
Quarshie
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) (Indianapolis) - Avijit
Saha
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC) -
Nguyen Le

ABSTAINED (10): Animal Sciences - Iqra Nazir
Biochemistry - Gaoya (Grace) Meng
Chemical Engineering - Katherine L. Young
Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) - Anant Upadhyay
Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE) - Yiming Liu
Health Sciences - Marwan Alajlouni
Management (MGMT) - Rajeev Karunanayake
Economics - Navid Safahieh
Nursing - Christelle Altidor
Mechanical Engineering (ME) (Indianapolis) - Shahrzad Ghadiri
jafarbeigloo

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of August
2025.

Abigayl Novak
Senate Clerk, PGSS

EXHIBIT “A”

PROPOSED POLICIES OF THE TRAVEL GRANT

[SEE ATTACHED THREE (3) PAGES]

Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) Travel Grant Policy

Policy for PGSG Travel Grant Applicants

1. The PGSG Travel Grant awards individual, competitive applications based on reviews using the evaluation rubric found on the Travel Grant webpage (https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants).
 - . Applicants should use the evaluation rubric as a guide as they draft their application.
 - . Applicants should read and follow policies listed in this document and in the instructions posted on the travel grant web page (https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants). If an applicant fails to follow instructions or policies, their application may be disqualified.
2. After an application has been submitted using the Qualtrics survey, applicants may make changes to their application by resubmitting a new application prior to the application deadline.
 - . Note that if an applicant makes changes to their application by resubmitting, they should notify the travel grant vice chair (travelpgsg@gmail.com) so that the most updated application is reviewed.
 - . Note that an applicant may not make any additions or changes to an application after the submission deadline.
2. For each student, only one application is allowed per semester and only one award per fiscal year (summer semester to spring semester of the following year). The applicant may not submit another application for travel that is already awarded by PGSG travel grant.
3. Awards must be used for the conference/travel indicated in the application and may not be applied to additional or alternative conferences or travel. If an awarded applicant finds they will not be traveling to the conference/event they applied for, they must report that they will not be using the awarded funds to travelpgsg@gmail.com
4. Applicants may not submit applications for the same conference/event/travel to both the travel and professional grants. Applicants should choose the appropriate grant (travel or professional) based on the grant descriptions on the PGSG webpage (<https://www.purduegradstudents.com/travel-grants>). Questions regarding which grant is most appropriate for the applicant can be directed to travelpgsg@gmail.com and/or professionalpgsg@gmail.com
 - . Note that applicants may submit applications to both the Travel and Professional grants for different events or purposes.
2. Travel grant awards are for students traveling to present at a conference. The travel grant does not cover research related expenses including, but not limited to, traveling for training, seminars, or to a collaborator's facility.
3. Applications that have been plagiarized, including self-plagiarism, will be ineligible for the award. If an applicant has applied for the award in previous semesters, substantial revisions should be made to any subsequent applications. Additionally, applications from different individuals from the same lab or traveling to the same event should be substantially different.

4. Application essays are evaluated by a double-blind review. Applicants may not put identifying information on their essay including, but not limited to, the applicant's name, advisor's name, or collaborator's name. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their essay does not include identifying information.
5. Applicants should respond to all items in the application package on Qualtrics. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered for funding. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check the completeness and accuracy of their application. Applicants may contact the travel chair, travelpgsg@gmail.com, to confirm all application materials have been received.
6. Travel grant awards reimburse travel related expenses up to the amount awarded (\$1,000~~750~~, \$750~~500~~, or \$250). Award recipients must submit appropriate documentation, including proof of conference attendance and receipts, to the PGSG treasurer (pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com) prior to receiving reimbursement.
 1. Travel grant awards will expire 2 months 1 month from the award date or the travel date indicated on the application, whichever occurs later. Applicants receiving travel awards must submit appropriate documentation (proof of conference attendance and receipts) prior to the award expiration. Expired awards will be reallocated.
 2. Travel grants are awarded to individuals and not collective groups of students on an application. Any individual seeking funding must submit their own individual application.
 3. The PGSG Travel Grant vice chair is committed to providing guidance for each applicant, thus welcoming any inquiry on the process of applying or clarifications about the scope of the Travel Grant. Please note that this does not mean the vice chair will review or edit your application.
 4. All funding decisions made by the Grant Review and Allocation Committee (GRAC) are final. Once an applicant has been notified of a funding decision, they may request their scores and reviewer comments by contacting travelpgsg@gmail.com

Policy for PGSG Travel Grant Reviewers

1. GRAC consists of graduate students from a variety of departments at Purdue. Applications will be reviewed by a minimum of 5 members from GRAC using the scoring rubric found on the travel grant webpage (https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants)
2. While it is not required, reviewers are encouraged to leave comments or suggestions for improvement on the applications they review. These comments may be shared upon the applicant's request. Comments are often highly beneficial for applicants who intend to apply in future semesters.
3. The PGSG Travel Grant reviewers cannot review an application where they have a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest includes applications from lab members, family, friends, or someone that can be identified based on the content of the application essay.
4. If a PGSG Travel Grant reviewer submits an application, he/she may not participate in the Travel Grant review round in which their application is submitted to.

Policy for PGSG Travel Grant Vice Chair

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The vice chair strives to balance the constraint of a limited budget with the desire to fairly allocate funds in a quantitatively rigorous manner.

1. The vice chair will monitor the travel grant email address (travelpgsg@gmail.com) and will respond to all inquiries in a timely manner.
2. With the aid of an online survey platform, such as Qualtrics, the vice chair will randomly or pseudo-randomly assign applications for GRAC members to review. Review assignments will be given in such a way that each GRAC member will review the same number of applications and each application will be reviewed by a minimum of 5 GRAC members.
3. The vice chair will make a funding recommendation based on the following: 1) the numerical scores (see evaluation rubric) from a minimum of 5 reviewers; 2) the monthly budget (set by the GRAC chair); 3) the number of applicants in the round.
4. Funding recommendations made by the vice chair are discussed by GRAC at a formal meeting. If necessary, the vice chair will amend the funding recommendation based on feedback from the committee. Final funding decisions must be approved by the committee.