

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	February 25, 2025
<b>Ruling</b>	Constitutional

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**PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**

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**BILL No. SP25-B001**

**Bill to Amend Policies of the Professional Development Grant**

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

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**WHEREAS,** The PGSG Professional Development 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 years<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** The inflation rate has been holding steady at around 3% or higher since September, 2023 and has only been increasing since September, 2024<sup>2</sup>; 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, 2023<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** The university minimum Fiscal Year (FY) Graduate Student Stipend has only increased by \$4,000 per year (\$333.33 per month) since 2023<sup>4</sup>; and

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <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>

<sup>4</sup> <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->

**WHEREAS,** This stipend increase is not enough to account for the increase of travel and living expenses<sup>5</sup>; 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 Professional Development Grant policy (Exhibit “A”) to increase the maximum award amount from \$750 to \$1,000.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** that PGSS amends the PGSG Professional Development 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 Professional Development and Small Research Grant 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 Professional Development and Small Research Vice Chair and GRAC Chair to alter the text of the Professional Development 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** 6<sup>th</sup> day of *March* 2025.

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Somosmita Mitra  
President, PGSG

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Victor Gutierrez-Schultz  
Senate Chair, PGSS

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[raises-stipend-minimum-again-for-phd-students/#:~:text=In%20the%20Office%20of%20the.to%20%2428%2C000%20for%20FY%20appointments.](#)

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

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Ethan Johnson  
Parliamentarian, PGSG

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Secret Permitter  
Author

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Srishti Dutta Chowdhury  
Floor Sponsor, Senator for History

## Certification

I, Abigayl 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of *March* 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES (28):** Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAE) - Arjun Rajashekar Adiga  
Agricultural Economics - Emily Forsythe  
Anthropology - Taylor Symone Borgelt  
Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai  
Biomedical Engineering (BME) - Mikayla Roach  
Chemical Engineering - Katherine L. Young  
Chemistry - Samson Marvellous Oladeji  
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  
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  
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 (19):** 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 (14):** Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) - Harsh Pathak  
Animal Sciences - Iqra Nazir  
Aviation and Transportation Technology (ATT) - Gustavo Sanchez  
Cortes  
Biochemistry - Gaoya (Grace) Meng  
Civil Engineering - Deepak Benny  
Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) - Anant Upadhyay  
Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE) - Yiming Liu  
Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) - Delaney Frances Jones  
Health Sciences - Marwan Alajlouni  
Management (MGMT) - Rajeev Karunanayake  
Materials Engineering (MSE) - Ankit Kumar  
Economics - Navid Safahieh  
Nursing - Christelle Altidor  
Mechanical Engineering (ME) (Indianapolis) - Shahrzad Ghadiri  
jafarbeigloo

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March  
2025.

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Abigayl Novak  
Senate Clerk, PGSS

**EXHIBIT “A”**

**PROPOSED POLICIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

[SEE ATTACHED THREE (3) PAGES]

## **Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) Professional Grant Policy**

### **Policy for PGSG Professional Grant Applicants**

1. The PGSG Professional Grant awards individual, competitive applications based on reviews using the evaluation rubric posted on the Professional Grant webpage ([https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available\\_grants](https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants)).
  - . Applicants are encouraged to use the evaluation rubric as a guide while preparing applications.
  - . Applicants are encouraged to read and follow policies listed in this document and in the instructions posted on the grant web page. If an applicant fails to follow instructions or policies, their application may be disqualified.
2. After an application has been submitted via Qualtrics, applicants may make changes to their application by submitting 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 ([professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@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. Each student is allowed to submit only one application per semester and receive only one award per fiscal year (summer semester to spring semester of the following year). Further, students may not submit additional applications for a professional development opportunity that was already awarded funding by the PGSG professional grant program.
3. Awards must be used for the professional development opportunity indicated in the application and may not be applied to additional or alternative events or opportunities. If an awarded applicant finds they will not be participating in the opportunity/event they applied for, they must report that they will not be using the awarded funds to [professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@gmail.com).
4. Applicants may not submit applications for the same conference/event/opportunity/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://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available\\_grants](https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants)). Questions regarding which grant is most appropriate can be directed to [travelpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:travelpgsg@gmail.com) and/or [professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@gmail.com)
  - . Note that applicants may submit applications to both the travel and professional grant for different events or purposes.
2. The professional grant funds opportunities for professional development. These opportunities may be beneficial or related to the applicant's thesis but should also

have a broader impact on the applicant's career/marketability. The professional grant does not cover research-related expenses including, but not limited to: equipment/reagents, books, data collection, or travel 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. Applications should be submitted before expenses occur.
5. Any application that uses AI must disclose in their application that AI was used to generate the application. Additionally, we only accept applications that are human-generated.
6. Funding Amount
  - . Exact funding amount will depend on each individual application; however, the maximum is set at \$1,000.
  - . Applicants are required to justify the amount of funding they are requesting, as described in the application instructions and rubric. Allocation decisions are based on the number and quality of applications in a given funding round. Funding is not guaranteed.
2. Professional grant awards reimburse expenses up to the amount awarded. Award recipients must submit appropriate documentation in order to receive the reimbursement.
  - . Professional grant awards will **expire 1 month from the award date or the travel date indicated on the application** – whichever occurs later. Applicants receiving professional awards must submit appropriate documentation prior to the award expiration. Expired awards will be reallocated.
  - . Professional grants are awarded to individuals and not groups of students for any one application. Any individual seeking funding must submit their own individual application.
2. Application essays are evaluated by a double-blind review process. Applicants should not include identifying information in 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.**
3. 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 professional chair, [professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@gmail.com), to confirm that all application materials have been received.

4. The PGSG Professional Grant vice chair is committed to providing guidance for each applicant. They welcome any inquiries regarding the application process or the scope of the professional grant. **Please note that this does not mean the vice chair will review or edit your application.** Please see the professional grant webpage for example applications and other writing tips.
5. 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 [professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@gmail.com)

#### Policy for PGSG Professional Grant Reviewers

1. Applications will be reviewed by a minimum of 5 members from GRAC using the scoring rubric found on the professional grant webpage ([https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available\\_grants](https://grac.purduegradstudents.com/#available_grants)). GRAC consists of graduate students from a variety of departments at Purdue.
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 Professional 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 Professional Grant reviewer submits an application for a particular round, he/she may not review applications for the round in which their application is included for review.

#### Policy for PGSG Professional Grant Vice Chair

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 professional grant email address ([professionalpgsg@gmail.com](mailto:professionalpgsg@gmail.com)) and will respond to all inquiries in a timely manner.
2. With the aid of an online survey platform (Qualtrics), the vice chair will 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 average 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 (see the PGSG Grants webpage for a complete list of GRAC meeting dates). 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 with a majority vote.