

Pro Tip: Funding from Graduate Studies

This month we are featuring two internal KU funding sources administered by the Office of Graduate Studies.



Graduate Student Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund

Thanks to Student Senate, we have considerably more funding available to support graduate student travel. We anticipate being able to award 300 travel grants this year! We are grateful to Student Senate for its investment in graduate professional development.

The Graduate Student Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund is intended to help graduate students advance their research and develop professional networks by presenting their original scholarship at a meeting of a learned or professional society being held outside the state of Kansas. The fund provides reimbursements of \$500 for domestic or international travel. Additional eligibility requirements, information, and the link to the application form may be

Grad Students Rising

Ali Khalighifar, KU doctoral student, shows [machine learning can identify kissing bugs that spread Chagas disease.](#)

Erin Adamson, KU doctoral student, researches the [effects of "lifestyle migrants" on Costa Rica.](#)

Kristan Hanson, KU doctoral student, receives the [2019 Stacy Lloyd III Fellowship](#) from the Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

Exciting News, Save the Date!

[YOU at KU](#)
August 6-9
Required for most new International students

[KU GradPrep](#)
August 12-16
Encouraged for new International Students

[New GTA Orientation](#)

found on our [website](#). The application for travel funds is currently open.

Travel fund eligibility requirements have been updated for the 2019-2020 academic year. The new requirements are intended to encourage students as they develop their skills in writing funding applications and seeking multiple sources of support for their research. In addition, graduate staff in the student's department will now be copied on all award letters for travel fund recipients. We know that they are often the first point of contact for students and hope this will help staff to best advise students with questions about the use of travel funds.

To qualify for these funds, graduate students will need to submit evidence of a meaningful effort to secure travel funding from a source outside of KU, as well. External funding sources may include professional organizations or the conference that the student is attending. Students do not necessarily need to be successful in their efforts to secure external funding but they do need to provide evidence of trying. Examples of such documentation might include acknowledgement that a funding application has been received. Another type of documentation might be email enquiries about whether funding support is available from relevant organizations.

Graduate Student Emergency Fund

Graduate Studies identified the Graduate Student Emergency Fund as our fundraising priority during the One Day, One KU drive. Student Senate and Athletics also identified this fund as the recipient of one of the 50/50 Fundraisers at the KU Men's basketball games. Very recently, we have added a direct donation [link online](#).

While we have enjoyed healthy support for this initiative this spring, the need of graduate students exceeds available funding. Unfortunately, funds have been exhausted and no more awards may be distributed. Graduate Studies will continue to allocate funds as they become available. You can find more information about this fund on our [website](#).

A Fond Farewell

Our Fellowship, Scholarship, and Awards Specialist, Andrew Beets, will leave his position on Friday, August 2nd. We will miss Andrew's support for our awards, his ready smile, and his pitch-in attitude. We wish him the very best of everything for the future, despite the loss in our office. Questions after August 2nd should be directed to graduateawards@ku.edu.

Best Practices for Holding Milestone Examinations

Milestone examinations at KU are the three main exams required by university policy in order to earn a graduate degree. They include the Master's Final Oral Exam, the Doctoral Comprehensive Oral Exam, and the Doctoral Final Oral Exam.

A few simple considerations while planning for milestone exams can dramatically reduce the anxiety that graduate students experience during the lead-up to these major events in their academic careers.

*Monday, August
19*

*8:00 a.m. - 3:00
p.m.*

*Budig Hall
Required for
first-time GTAs*

[New Graduate
Student
Orientation](#)

*Friday, August
23*

*11:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.*

*Capitol Federal
Hall Atrium
Encouraged for
all new
graduate
students*

For example, all exam participants must be fully engaged for the duration of the exam. Recent technical edits to university policies governing [Graduate Student Oral Exam Attendance](#) and the [Graduate Studies Representative on Doctoral Oral Exams](#) clarify this expectation. Staff and faculty can support students by asking the following key questions of the student while the exam is being scheduled.

- Is every committee member available to participate for the entire scheduled exam period?
- Is every committee member going to attend the exam in person? If not, is the student fully comfortable with the arrangements being proposed for mediated attendance? Please keep in mind that the Chair, Graduate Studies Representative, and at least one other member must be in physical attendance.

Identifying committee members early can also dramatically reduce the stress of setting up a milestone exam. If the department and student establish the committee membership early, staff can prepare in advance for exam scheduling by ensuring that all committee members have appropriate Graduate Faculty membership on file with Graduate Studies. This reduces last-minute paperwork during peak exam seasons.

New Graduate Student Orientation

Graduate Studies is excited to host our second annual New Graduate Student Orientation from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 23rd, in Capitol Federal Hall. This campus-wide orientation gives incoming graduate students the opportunity to meet other new students from across disciplines, get acquainted with essential campus resources and offices, and learn a little bit about what Lawrence has to offer them and their families. A full schedule of the orientation events can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you to Interim Provost Carl Lejuez for agreeing to give the orientation welcome and to staff from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the schools of Business and Engineering, and International Support Services, who have collaborated with Graduate Studies on planning the event.

KU Graduate Studies
graduate@ku.edu • 785-864-8040

