

**MacKenzie Scott Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award**  
**UC Merced Academic Senate**

Dear Graduate Group Chairs,

The Graduate Council, in collaboration with the Graduate Division, is pleased to announce the availability of the MacKenzie Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award to support the research and scholarly endeavors of our graduate students. Each award, with a total amount of \$500, is intended to help cover travel expenses related to the generation or dissemination of research & scholarly activity by eligible graduate students, such as to present at professional meetings, conduct field work, do archival research, conduct research at user facilities, display art in an exhibition, perform in a concert, etc.

To be eligible for the award, students must be in good standing and their research or scholarly activity must be attributed to UC Merced or be part of their progress towards obtaining a graduate degree from UC Merced. The funds must be used for travel-related expenses, such as airfare, lodging, conference registration fees, facility user fees, meals and incidental expenses (M&IE), etc.

Graduate groups are required to provide matching funds for this award, which can come from both competitive and non-competitive research-related awards for scholarly activities. Allowable matching funds include graduate group funds that are allowed to be used for fellowships (e.g., USAP funds). Also allowable are fellowship funds the student may have from other funding sources (e.g., training grants, NSF-GFRP), and their PI's funds, if need can be justified (e.g., insufficient support in the fellowship, or the PI has insufficient funds to sponsor the entire travel). If matching funds from the latter are used, a statement by the student's PI justifying the need is to be included in the request.

The total amount of available funds in this program is \$48,000. The funds from the MacKenzie Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award program must be used between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Every four months funds for up to 16 new awards will become available for travel during that and the next four-month period, starting with June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (June-September, October-January & February-May).

**Rounds:**

Call opens April 26, 2023; closes May 26, 2023  
Call opens August 28, 2023; closes September 28, 2023  
Call opens December 4, 2023; closes January 4, 2024  
Call opens April 22, 2024; closes May 22, 2024  
Call opens August 26, 2024; closes September 26, 2024  
Call opens December 2, 2024; closes January 2, 2025

Submit applications or nominations via the webform provided for the current round. Once all applications are submitted and the deadline is met, GC will review the submissions for completeness and determine an equitable distribution across graduate groups. Graduate group chairs will be provided with the number of awards allocated to their graduate group and asked to select the students within their graduate group based on the program requirements.

Please note that there is a limit of one award per student. We encourage you to allocate these funds to eligible graduate students, considering merit and need to help advance their research and careers equitably.

To request the funds for a graduate student, please provide the following information:

- Student Name,

- Certification that student is in good standing,
- Travel Purpose,
- Travel dates and location,
- Abstract or brief synopsis of the research or scholarly activity (300 words maximum),
- Amount of matching funds provided (minimum \$500).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Graduate Council & Graduate Division