ARHU Grad Fellowships Committee Travel Awards
FAQs

Do Travel Awards require a 50-50 match from the department?
Strong preference is given for applications with some matching from the department, but it does not have to be a 50-50 match. Grad Directors should indicate what departments can give or what their policy is on travel funds, for example, in the circumstance where the department allots students so much travel money but the amount has been used up.

If a student’s travel is scheduled for, say, the week of Sept. 22nd and the travel award deadline is, say, Oct. 3rd, can the student still apply, even though the travel will have been completed before the deadline?
The Committee recommends that students apply for the round of travel award that immediately precedes the date of travel. When that is not possible, however, the committee does encourage students to apply in the next round, only if the travel will have been completed immediately before the committee deliberates. See next question as well.

What should a student do if s/he has not been notified about their paper's acceptance by the deadline for Travel award application?
The committee recommends applying for the appropriate deadline anyway. If the committee makes an award to the student, it will still require proof that the paper or presentation was accepted prior to dispersing the travel funds.

Should Directors of Graduate Studies rank the students applying from their unit?
The committee appreciates knowing how the DGS assesses applicants for travel awards from their units in relation to one another, but does not require that they rank order all applicants. However, it is very important for DGSs to do two things: 1) provide a thorough discussion of the merits of the student’s research presentation and 2) help the committee understand the importance of attendance and presentation at a particular conference in the student’s field in relation to where the student stands in his or her graduate career.

What information should students include in their applications?
The application requires a response to five questions; students should read the fine print on the Travel Awards announcement and respond in detail to each item, taking special care 1) to explain the content and significance of their presentation in language accessible to non-specialists and 2) to justify the importance of the conference to the particular stage of their graduate career.

Can students apply for a travel award more than once?
Strong preference will be given to students who have not had an ARHU travel award in the past. In general the committee reserves the larger share of its budget to fund students who are presenting their research at conferences that are especially prestigious in their field and when the student is on the job market or close to finishing the degree. However, a smaller portion of funding may be made available to students in an early phase of their graduate careers when the DGS endorses the travel, the presentation has strong merit, and the conference presents a special opportunity for the student.

If a student receives a travel award and then does not use the funding, can they apply the funds to another trip?
No. The committee only offers a travel award for a presentation at a particular conference or event which the student has explained thoroughly, the Graduate Director has endorsed strongly, and on which the committee has deliberated. In addition, ARHU Grad Fellowships Awards monies do not carry over from one fiscal year to the next.