MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Chairpersons and Graduate Program Directors

FROM: David A. Francko

SUBJECT: Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Fund

Based on high demand for summer research and travel funds, the Graduate School will provide a third round of funding for graduate student research projects and travel to present research results at conferences. Please notify your faculty and graduate students that they may submit proposals for the support of graduate research and travel during April through August 2014 using the attached form.

Working together as partners, we can ensure that every UA graduate student has sufficient funding to conduct high-quality research and that every UA graduate student presents at least one paper per year at a national or international meeting. At international meetings, we hope that students will avail themselves of other opportunities for learning and interaction at a foreign venue.

For Research Awards, priority will be given to thesis, pre-dissertation, and dissertation research. For Travel Awards, priority will be given to graduate students who have been accepted to present personally their own research (or creative activity) at a national or international meeting of their discipline's major academic/professional organization.

Deadline: April 15, 2014

To maximize the number of students that can be funded, as well as the total amount of funding for student research and travel, we will continue the cost-sharing program that was initiated in Fall 2006. This approach has been extraordinarily successful. So far this academic year, we funded over 780 students with over $500,000 in total awards, (up 100 students and over $50,000 from last year) compared with 168 students and $74,489 for the entire 2005-06 year!

Departments may submit as many nominations as they deem appropriate, provided that each nomination be matched with some sort of departmental or college cost share and all nominations above 3 be matched at least 1:1 with non-Graduate School funds. All nominations must be currently registered graduate students in graduate coursework for the semester which the student is requesting the funds.

Requests for awards should be initiated by the student's faculty adviser and endorsed and submitted by the department chair to the Graduate School. The memorandum should include a budget, information about cost sharing, and, if travel is involved, an indication as to whether or not the student will be personally presenting his or her own work. If you are submitting requests for more than one student, please rank order your requests.

For year-end tax reporting purposes, please indicate on the cover sheet for proposal whether each nominee is a U.S. resident or not.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL/RESEARCH ENRICHMENT TRAVEL COMPONENT
International experiences are important to ALL UA students, including graduate students. Presenting work at an international meeting is an excellent way for grad students to accomplish TWO goals – improve their CVs and learn about the host country in which the meeting is being held. To encourage more international paper presentations and actively encourage grad students to take advantage of ‘value-added’ international educational or research enrichment components of an international conference, we are pleased to continue this program.

In addition to providing up to $300 in travel support for an international paper/poster presentation, we will provide up to an additional $300 (matched 1:1 with departmental/college support) to fund pre- or post-conference educational or research enrichment activity that can be bundled onto the paper presentation trip, either sponsored by the conference organizers or ad hoc activities with a strong research or educational component (i.e., no skiing trip in the Alps after a meeting in Zurich).

To apply for this supplementary funding, just use the existing form and indicate that you are seeking both meeting travel and international enrichment funding (thus total request can be up to $600 per meeting/experience). Be sure to describe the international educational/research activities you plan to participate in. Again, we require that Graduate School funding be matched at least 1:1.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

DF/kn

Enclosure

Download Cover Sheet for Proposal (to be completed by student’s faculty adviser)

Please contact Kathleen Nodine in the Graduate School at knodine@ua.edu if you need further information.