Geography & Environment – Research & Development Fund

Geography and Environment Masters and PhD students are eligible to apply to the Research & Development Fund to support their research and professional development. Priority will be given to thesis or dissertation research-related expenses (including, but not limited to: conducting field work; paying participants; acquiring software; books or specialized equipment; training costs). Students can request up to $5000 for such expenses.

Students may also request up to $1500 for academic conference attendance. For academic conferences, to be eligible for conference costs, students must be the lead presenter (oral or poster presentations are eligible). Yearly funding is subject to availability within the G&E Graduate budget.

Eligibility

All current PhD and Masters students are eligible to apply, including those who have received funding in previous years. Priority will be given to those who have not received funding before.

Application Materials

A complete application consists of the following four items:

1) **Application form:** This document summarizes the proposed request for funding and must include your supervisor's signature. Applications without the supervisor's signature will not be considered.
2) **Proposal**: The application must include a maximum 1-page proposal indicating how the funds will be used. The proposal must clearly indicate how the intended use of the funds contributes to the student's thesis/dissertation research and/or professional development.
3) **Budget justification**: Budget justification: Include a maximum 1-page budget justification with a breakdown of all expenses for which you are requesting funds. Please attach relevant website printouts, where possible, for price quotes for requested items. Please see the following link for Western's per diem rates: https://www.uwo.ca/finance/news/2017/meal_allowances_and_per_diems_at_western.html
4) **Up-to-date CV**

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when adjudicating applications.

- Priority will be given to proposals from students earlier in their degree timeline;
- Priority will be given to thesis/dissertation research-related expenses, training/workshops, and presentation at conferences, in that order;
- First time applicants will be prioritized over former recipient applicants;
- Funding decisions will factor in supervisor financial support for research activities and prioritize those without such support. This should be discussed in the proposal.

Timeline

Applications are due on November 30, 2026 (to Graduate Administrator Caitlin McCuaig, cmccuai5@uwo.ca) and will be reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee promptly. The use of funds will be subject to Western's requirements and regulations.

Students can request reimbursement for approved expenses incurred from May 1st, 2026 to April 30th, 2027. All expense claims must be submitted by **April, 15, 2027**.