

Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants

Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants provide funding to students in support of cultural excursions, travel to conferences, and other activities aimed at enhancing student learning beyond the classroom. Students are eligible grants of up to \$1500. Grant proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications are available on-line and in the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants should not be confused with Undergraduate Research Opportunity (UROP) Grants, which are available for students undertaking research projects with a faculty supervisor – particularly projects that lead to or are a part of students' capstone experience or thesis research. Similarly, students who seek funding to present research at a conference should seek funding from UROP. For information and application forms, go to <http://www.nd.edu/~isla/UROP/resources.htm>.

Mission

Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants give students opportunities to attend cultural events and conferences and to spend summers engaging in internships. As a result of attending a performance or having occasions to spend time with artists and scholars, students can begin to formulate relevant questions, measuring what they learn in class with what they experience in these other contexts. In turn, this kind of critical engagement can help students as they embark future projects, plans, and research.

Who is Eligible?

All College of Arts and Letters students in good academic standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Letters are eligible to apply for a Learning Beyond the Classroom Grant.

Students should complete an application, available in the Office of Undergraduate Studies and at the College of Arts and Letters Undergraduate website.

Resources for Funding

Student applications are limited to one per year, are capped at \$1,500, and must be accompanied by one faculty letter of recommendation.

Funding will be available for a limited number of internships. For international travel, priority will be given to students seeking travel to non-English speaking countries. Funds for international travel are also available through the Nanovic and Kellogg Institutes.

Deadlines

Students may submit applications on a rolling basis, but should do so a month in advance of a given event, excursion, or activity. Decisions are expected to be made within a week.

Guidelines

Students should submit a 500-word single-spaced proposal, providing a detailed description of the following:

- The proposed event, cultural excursion, or other activity
- A clear explanation of learning goals – the ways attending a specific excursion, event, or activity will help advance learning beyond the classroom
- An itemized budget for expenses (e.g., for travel, lodging, meals, tickets for a performance)

Applications should be accompanied by a faculty recommendation, explaining the ways that a specific excursion, event, or activity will help advance student learning.

Criteria for Evaluation

Proposals will be vetted by a committee of faculty, including the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Successful applications will make clear how the proposed event or excursion will contribute to student learning. What should applicant be able to do or accomplish as the result of this project that could not be attained in a given class? *Students will be required to submit a report at a time agreed upon by the applicant and the faculty committee.*

Types of Proposals Funded in 2006-07

Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants provided support for three kinds of activities during the 2006-2007 academic year:

1. Students received grants to conduct preliminary research that in the future would lead to a capstone project or thesis.
2. Students received support for internships, but students and faculty are encouraged to work with the Nanovic and Kellogg Institutes before applying for funding from the Learning Beyond the Classroom Grants program.
3. Students received funds to attend professional conferences when they have demonstrated that the topic is related to students' coursework or their major. (Students presenting their own research should apply for a grant from UROP.) Students participating in University-sponsored clubs have also received grants to attend conferences when they can show that the experience will influence or change the work they are doing on campus.