Northwestern University has developed a reimbursement grant opportunity for qualifying graduate students who could benefit from Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training in support of their academic goals requiring remote or rural international travel. (If funding is not used up by international travelers, it may then be available for remote or rural locations in the U.S. Contact OGSS for more information).

Qualifying programs include the following two-day courses for WFA training (tuition fee averages $250):

- National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) (in association with Recreational Equipment, Inc. - REI)
- Wilderness Medicine Associates International (WMAI)

Award recipients may attend training in any location, but reimbursement is limited to the course fee and transportation or lodging costs up to $500 total. Local options to participate in WFA training exist through NOLS/REI Co-op. Filter the schedule by state to find Chicago-based options.

Applicants must apply for and be awarded a promise of reimbursement prior to participating in the training. Upon completion of the training, awardees have eight weeks to submit proof of participation AND proof of payment to the Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS). Reimbursement will occur within 14 business days of receipt of both documents.

**Required Applicant Information**
Name:
Northwestern ID:
Northwestern Email Address:
Academic Department:
Faculty Supervisor’s Name:
Faculty Supervisor’s Email:
Country Destination(s) (include nearest city, region or national park, etc.):
Proposed or Confirmed Travel Dates or Time Frame:

**Required Essay**
In 500 words or less, describe proposed research activities, associated risks and how participation in a wilderness first aid course will contribute to your health, safety and well-being.

**Required Recommendation**
A short email from a faculty member supervising the research confirming the usefulness of the training in light of the proposed travel destination and activities.
Award Criteria

- Awardees must be current, full-time graduate student at Northwestern University whose international travel is defined as university-sponsored or supported
- The applicable international travel must be planned or booked within 10 months of participating in the Wilderness First Aid course
- The international destination associated with one’s research must be a foreign country’s remote/rural destination that lacks convenient access to emergency health care resources and/or standard cell phone reception

Other Requirements

Awardees must register their travel details with OGSS at least 14 days prior to departure, including confirmed or promised registration with GeoBlue, Northwestern’s international medical and insurance assistance provider. Failure to comply may result in a request to return award funds. Destination countries with a U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories Level 3 or 4 require a special release, which is included in the registry process.

Selection Preferences

- Preference will be given to travelers who will be alone or who are leading a group of less-experienced travelers
- Preference will also be given to those whose purpose for travel involves:
  - likely direct or indirect exposure to wild animals, reptiles, etc.
  - the collection of flora, fauna or other natural samples (including water);
  - higher-risk activities (SCUBA-diving1, snorkeling, caving, cave-diving, back-country hiking or camping, mountain climbing/repelling, etc.); or
  - the operation of specialized vehicles (third-wheeler) or watercraft (canoes, kayaks, etc.)2

Application Deadline

2019-20 awards will be made on a rolling basis from January 1 - August 1, 2020 or until funding runs out. It is to the student’s advantage to apply as soon as one’s travel plans are firm. The last date by which reimbursement can be sought will be August 15, 2020.

Exclusions

University funds cannot be used for the following activities as they are excluded from GeoBlue coverage: sky diving, mountaineering (where ropes and climbing equipment are customarily used), ultra-light aircraft, parasailing, sailplaning/gliders, hang gliding, parachuting, or bungee jumping.

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1 students needing to SCUBA for such purposes have to submit proof of certification with their reimbursement grant application
2 Note that participation in higher-risk activities or the use of specialized vehicles or watercraft must relate to accessing research material or subjects, and not for recreational purposes