

Denning Global Fellows in Sustainable Development Program: Description & Eligibility

The Denning Global Fellows in Sustainable Development Program supports off-campus fieldwork and research, and research assistantships/internships for current Columbia University undergraduates studying sustainable development (special concentration & major). The fieldwork must be related to the sustainable development curriculum and provide an opportunity to conduct research and hone skills in data collection, analysis, and project management. Ideal projects will ensure that the challenges presented by globalization are not abstract ideas and allow students to gain practical experience in the critical areas of sustainable development.

Project/Program Eligibility

Funding will only be awarded for fieldwork that is explicitly related to a project/program that helps fulfill a requirement for your degree and/or furthers your studies in Sustainable Development. For example, fieldwork can be related to research needed to complete studios, workshops, theses, senior seminar projects, independent studies, or other degree requirements.

Please Note:

- *The following fixed fund amounts are available for the Summer Ecosystems Experience for Undergraduates (SEE-U), provided that there is an **additional** research component designed by the student:*
 - *Jordan: \$3,800*
 - *New York: \$2,700*
- *Funding may be awarded for non-CU study abroad programs when there is an **additional** field research component to the study abroad experience. Study abroad in and of itself is not eligible for this funding. Tuition costs and program fees are not eligible for funding.*
- *Please note that grants may be subject to taxation, and/or affect your financial aid package. We recommend you follow up with your financial aid office and/or tax advisor if you have questions.*

Student Eligibility

Only current, full-time CU students in the Undergraduate Program in Sustainable Development who are in good academic standing will be considered. Applications will be reviewed to ensure the fieldwork is connected to your major or special concentration in sustainable development.

All students of Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and the School of General Studies traveling outside of the 50 U.S. states on Columbia Travel must abide by all requirements of the [Undergraduate International Travel Policy](#) by logging into the [Undergraduate Travel Web App](#) and submitting a School Sponsorship application. Students must review and follow all application instructions and adhere to departmental and University deadlines.

Before Submitting a Funding Application

There are several time-sensitive steps that must be completed before you travel. Prior to submitting this application to the Undergraduate Program in Sustainable Development you will need to:

1. Log into the [Undergraduate Travel Web App](#) and review the [Undergraduate International Travel Policy](#).
2. Submit for approval a School Sponsorship application to the Undergraduate Travel Review Committee, no later than 4 weeks prior to departure
3. Schedule a site-specific travel health assessment with Student Health Services (appointments fill up quickly, especially before spring and winter break)
4. Confirm you will have adequate health insurance that covers routine and emergency care for the duration of the proposed travel (*travel insurance is also recommended*).
5. Review [travel information](#) and country-specific [travel warnings](#).

If Funding Application is Approved

If selected for funding, students will be required to:

1. Register with ISOS and complete any additional requirements per the University's Undergraduate International Travel Policy.
2. Attend a pre-departure meeting at the Earth Institute and complete all required paperwork.
3. Participate in a presentation of their research at the annual spring Earth Institute [Student Research Showcase](#).

Research Funding Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ UNI: _____

Project Faculty Advisor: _____ Major/Concentration: _____
(this person should be supervising your work)

Telephone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

School: _____

Graduation date: __/__/____

Cumulative GPA: _____

(To be eligible for participation in an approved study abroad program, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA.)

Semester(s) planning to study abroad (if applicable): FALL ____ SPRING ____ FULL YEAR ____

Have you discussed your study abroad plans with your advising dean? YES NO

LIST PROGRAM OF INTEREST, INTERNSHIP NAME OR RESEARCH PROJECT

Name: _____

Location: _____

Anticipated Dates of Travel: __/__/____ to __/__/____

ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY STANDING

Have you ever been on academic or disciplinary probation? Academic probation: YES NO
Disciplinary probation: YES NO

If YES to either of the above, be prepared to discuss this with program staff.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please check all that apply. This will not affect your eligibility but will simply ensure we can provide appropriate support.

____ Non-U.S. citizen ____ Disability ____ Financial Aid recipient

MEDICAL ISSUES Studying, research and/or work abroad is an adventure for both the mind and the body. In order to ensure that students remain healthy and productive while abroad, we ask that you disclose any ongoing medical issues you have. Understanding the accessibility of treatment and support in your future host country and coordinating ongoing care between your providers here and overseas are vital steps to this end. Disclosure on this form allows program personnel to help you with this process. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will be used only to aid in advising you.

Do you have any medical or psychological conditions? YES NO

PROJECT INFORMATION

Explanation of how the fieldwork/project fits into specific course requirements (if it pertains to a sustainable development course):

Explanation of how the fieldwork/project fits into the sustainable development degree/special concentration requirements (i.e. independent research that builds upon sustainable development topics):

My signature below indicates that the information provided is correct and that I have taken the appropriate steps to plan out the remaining core, major, and elective classes toward fulfilling my degree requirements.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

My signature below indicates that I am supervising the project and support this proposal in full (including budget, logistics, feasibility, etc)

Mentor/Project Advisor Signature _____ Date _____

Documents to submit in addition to the application:

- 2-3 page detailed description of your research project/research assistantship/internship/program. This should include a detailed itinerary and research plan, as well as confirmed interviews and meetings (if applicable).
- If your research involves human subjects, you will need to provide proof that you have started an application for IRB approval.
- Detailed budget for project (must include specific line items for expenses such as flights, accommodations, food, in-country travel, research materials, translators, etc).
- Current resume
- Signed Faculty Sponsor/Employer Approval Form
- One letter of recommendation from your Columbia University faculty advisor. This person should be familiar with your research project and be able to explain how he/she is supervising your work. The letter should also describe your ability to undertake the research in that specific location and under the timeframe proposed.
- Updated transcript

Applications must be sent in with all forms together in a single envelope or e-mail.

Electronic applications should be e-mailed in PDF format to sm4084@columbia.edu with "Application for Sustainable Development Research Funding" in the title.