

USUCGER Student Travel Grants September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

Summary

The USUCGER Board will sponsor students (graduate or undergraduate) to attend conferences between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025 in support of their accepted work. The awards will be up to \$1,000 per student and may be used to fund airfare, hotel, per diem, and/or the conference student registration fee for the awardee.

Applicants must be advised by a USUCGER member and must be presenting research that contributes to the body of knowledge in geotechnical or geoenvironmental engineering to be eligible for the award. The award can be used to support travel to geotechnical and/or geoenvironmental-focused or interdisciplinary conferences.

The Board will evaluate applications during three cycles and anticipates granting at least one travel award per cycle depending on available funding. A summary of the application cycle dates and deadlines is provided below.

Date of Conference Attendance	Application Deadline	Anticipated Award Notification Date
September 1 to December 31, 2024	July 15, 2024	August 15, 2024
January 1 to April 30, 2025	November 15, 2024	December 15, 2024
May 1 to August 31, 2025	March 15 2025	April 15, 2025

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, an applicant must (i) be enrolled at a U.S. member university and be advised (or co-advised) by one of the member university's delegates at the time of application; (ii) have a paper submitted for presentation at the conference (oral or poster) and included in the conference proceedings; (iii) commit to presenting the paper, either through a poster or podium presentation, at the conference; and (iv) not have sufficient funding through other travel awards.

Application Requirements

An application package must contain the following items:

- A one-page letter from the student's faculty advisor confirming the student's (a) *qualifications*; (b) *eligibility* for the award; (c) *contributions* to the work in relation to the other authors; and (d) *presentation* of the work at the conference.
- Student's current CV not to exceed three pages;

- A brief (not to exceed one page, single-spaced, 12-pt. font) essay stating the conference they will be traveling to and describing how attending the conference will be beneficial to the student's education and future career;
- A copy of the paper(s) submitted to the conference proceedings;

Students applying for international travel support must be legally able to travel (i.e., approved visa or eligible for a visa waiver) to the proposed country at the time of the application.

Prior to accepting the award, the student must provide confirmation from the conference organizers that the paper has been accepted and has been assigned to a technical session for oral or poster presentation (e.g., a copy of the email confirming acceptance).

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will be composed at a minimum of three USUCGER board members. Selection of the awardee will be based on evaluation of the entire application package, including the potential effects of the award on the student's career (as evidenced in the essay and CV).

Award Amount

The award will be based on the actual cost of attending the conference but **may not exceed \$1,000 per awardee**. Eligible expenses for reimbursement through this award include airfare (main cabin only), baggage fees, lodging (actual single room rate), conference registration, transportation to and from the airport, and meals and incidental expenses (up to \$60/day with itemized receipts). Alcohol and expenses associated with personal business and side trips are not reimbursable.

Students must make their own travel arrangements prior to the conference and will be reimbursed by the USUCGER after completion of the conference. Students will be asked to certify that the submitted expenses will not be otherwise reimbursed (e.g., by other grants or scholarships). Original itemized receipts and a completed reimbursement form will be required.

If this conference is transitioned to virtual attendance, the USUCGER Board maintains the right to revoke travel grant decisions. The Board may cover cancellation fees incurred by the selected students at the Board's discretion.

Deadline

Completed application packages should be submitted electronically (as a single file) to uboard@usucger.org no later than 11:59 PM PST on the relevant deadline outlined above. No extensions will be given.

Additional Information

Send an email to uboard@usucger.org with any questions or requests for additional information.