

Jane

Harris Grant in Tropical Botany, Mallinckrodt Graduate Fellowship in Tropical Ecology, Mary Osborne Grant, Parker-Gentry Tropical Research Fellowship, Peter H. Raven World Ecology Research Grant, Stokes Family Grant in Tropical Conservation, Whitney R. Harris Community Grant, and Harris Center Research Grants.

Geographical constraints

Harris Center Research

Harris Center grants are restricted to University of Missouri-St. Louis graduate students and most awards support projects that intend to conduct field studies in the geographically defined tropics (between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) in South America, Central America, Mexico, Africa and Madagascar, tropical Asia (including some developing countries in southern Asia), Malaysia, tropical Australia, the Caribbean and Pacific islands (including Hawaii). Funds are also available for research with a geographical focus in other regions of the world.

Parker-Gentry Fellowship

The Parker-Gentry Fellowship is restricted to University of Missouri-St. Louis graduate students from Latin America intending to conduct field studies in Latin America. Proposal must contain a significant field based component. Appropriate topics include biogeography, conservation biology, ecology, faunal surveys, floristics, natural history and systematics.

The Christensen Fund Research Awards

The Christensen Fund Research Awards are open to all University of Missouri-St. Louis graduate students who are conducting or planning to conduct research in applied plant conservation for the M.S. or Ph.D. degrees in some part of the New or Old World tropics. Proposals should address broadly-defined plant conservation research questions focused on the tropical countries of South and Central America, Mexico, sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar, tropical Asia, Malesia, the Caribbean and Pacific islands (excluding Hawaii as a sole research site). Appropriate research topics include plant systematics, plant biogeography, plant ecology, plant conservation (including plant habitat conservation) and plant-animal interactions.

Harris Center Appointment

The Harris Center Research Grant Committee is appointed by the Harris Center Executive Committee. The committee consists of up to six Harris Center Faculty Associates, the Director, Graduate Studies, Missouri Botanical Garden (or nominee) and two senior University of Missouri-St. Louis graduate students (at least one will be an international student, neither will be an applicant in the current round). The Harris Center Director will be an *ex officio*, non-voting member.

Proposal review

Proposals will be circulated to members of the Harris Center Research Grant Committee. Proposals will be separated into discipline areas by the Harris Center Director. Each proposal will be reviewed in detail by three members of the scholarship committee and they will rank the proposal, write detailed comments as feedback to the applicants, and report to the full Harris Center Research Grant Committee. Ideally, each proposal will be reviewed by two members of the scholarship committee familiar with the discipline area and one from outside the discipline area. Proposals will be allocated to reviewers by the Harris Center Director in consultation with members of the Scholarship Committee. Advisors will not be one of the three reviewers of proposals submitted by their graduate students (see below). When expertise is lacking, views on the merits of particular research proposals may be solicited from suitably qualified individuals who are not members of the Research Grant Committee. Members of the Research Grant Committee will have access to all proposals but may choose to rely on the comments of the three reviewers. The final decision on the award of research grant funds will rest with

members of the Research Grant Committee. The Harris Center Director will determine which named scholarship is awarded to each of the successful applicants.

Proposals from M.S. and Ph.D. students

The Harris Center Research Grant Committee will rank proposals from M.S. and Ph.D. students separately. A formula that splits funds between the M.S. and Ph.D. competitions based on the number of applicants and funding requested will be applied. This formula will be developed by the Harris Center Director prior to consideration of proposals but should act only to guide award decisions. **Scientific merit and probability of success will remain the over-riding criteria in the award of all Harris Center research grants.**

Student feedback

Detailed student feedback will be prepared by the three reviewers and, if necessary, added to by members of the Harris Center Research Grant Committee. Written reviews should be prepared by all reviewers and may be edited to remove repetition. Reviews should cover the following:

- Scientific merit
- Importance of funding to beginning research project and graduate career
- Relevance of research to Harris Center mission
- Contributions from previous Harris Center support
- Effort to obtain funds from other sources

Role of advisors

Advisors serving on the Harris Center Research Grant Committee will not remain in the room when proposals from their graduate students are being discussed and should not vote on proposals submitted by their graduate students. Advisors will not serve as specialist reviewers of proposals submitted by their graduate students.