

ARCE Pre-dissertation Travel Grant Application Guidelines

A limited number of pre-dissertation research travel grants will be offered again this year. This grant is designed to support pre-dissertation research travel to Egypt for a 4-8 week period. During this period the grantee will conduct exploratory research to identify sources, establish contacts, identify and visit various sites and institutions and test the feasibility of their initial research methodologies on the ground in Egypt.

Fields of Study: Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art, Art History, Comparative Literature, Coptic Studies, Economics, Egyptology, Ethnomusicology, Gender Studies, History, Humanistic Social Sciences, Islamic Studies, Literature, Music, Political Science, and Religious Studies.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be an American citizen;
- Applicants must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program at an accredited university in the U.S. or abroad;
- Applicants must be available to conduct 4-8 weeks uninterrupted research in Egypt;
- Applicants must have completed all coursework prior to arriving in Egypt;
- An applicant may have already passed his or her comprehensive exams and/or been granted approval for the dissertation proposal.

Award: Not to exceed \$2400 plus round-trip economy airfare.

The Application: A completed Pre-dissertation Travel Grant application consists of the following components:

- An [online application](#) form
- Statement of purpose (1200 words) that:
 - Describes the goals and objectives of the proposed research travel
 - Describes how the proposed research trip fits within the development of your dissertation proposal and your overall research plan
 - Describes how this trip fits within the structure of your university's doctoral program towards the development of your dissertation proposal
 - Describes the concept, methodology and significance of the proposed research project in relation to your academic field
 - Includes a simple budget with a description of estimated costs
- Two letters of reference from those who know your work; one must be from your advisor.
- One language evaluation (ancient or contemporary) from a language teacher or faculty member.
- Graduate and undergraduate transcripts. Please remove all password protections from transcripts prior to submission.

Review Criteria:

- Validity, significance and feasibility of proposed dissertation topic;
- Faculty support as indicated by letters of reference;
- Connection between the travel grant plans and dissertation proposal development;
- Scholarly achievement;
- Requisite language capability.

Application Submission Deadline: January 18, 2021. [Apply here >>](#)

Important Note: All scholars conducting research with ARCE's administrative or financial support require security clearance from the Egyptian government. If your research relies on interviews, public observation, questionnaires, participant observation, visual anthropology, or attending public events or if your research focuses on the military, religious movements, civilian-military relations, or politics in the current century it is unlikely you will gain clearance. Applicants should consult the Cairo office prior to completing your application if any of those scenarios applies to you.

Attention antiquities applicants: Grants are not intended to support participation as an expedition member. If your proposals includes visits to heritage sites or fieldwork and you have questions, contact Academic Programs Manager, Djodi Deutsch, fellows@arce.org.

READ THIS BEFORE STARTING YOUR APPLICATION

Which ministerial security forms should you complete?

- Any applicant conducting research that includes use of national archives or libraries, private libraries and collections and local book markets must complete the two (2) Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) forms found on this website. This includes anyone whose research focus is post-Greco-Roman.
- All applicants who will conduct research in museums or visit archaeological or historical sites under the direction of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) must submit one (1) MoTA application/security form provided on the ARCE website.
- A fellowship under the authority of the MoTA is not intended to fund research that may be construed by the MoTA as an expedition. Conducting field surveys, organizing an expedition, or joining an expedition as a team member, must be discussed with ARCE prior to submitting your application. Additionally, if the objects of your research are physically located on the site of an ongoing expedition or in its warehouse, or if your proposal requires fieldwork in association with an expedition, please contact Djodi Deutsch at fellows@arce.org for guidance on preparing your proposal.
- It is only possible to be an expedition member during a hiatus in your fellowship, at which time you will receive no financial support from ARCE.

Research risk associated with some contemporary topics

- Let's be clear, there are thousands of years of Egyptian history that pose zero risk to foreign and Egyptian scholars.
- If your research relies on interviews, public observation, questionnaires, participant observation, visual anthropology, attending public events, etc., you are unlikely to secure government clearance for your research, which is required for all ARCE fellows.
- If your research focuses on military, religious movements, civilian-military relations, and politics in the current century you are unlikely to secure government clearance for your research, which is required for all ARCE fellows.
- Applicants and recommenders will be asked to address the current research and/or political climate in the country and whether that is expected to impact your security and your ability to conduct and succeed in your research.
- If you have any questions contact fellows@arce.org for guidance before preparing your application.