

Support for Geosciences Students

Information about various types of financial support available from the College can be found at: www.smith.edu/doc/funding.php

Declared Geosciences Majors are also eligible to apply for support from the Department of Geosciences GeoStars and Schalk Funds to attend professional conferences, go to field camp, and conduct geological fieldwork and laboratory analyses.

Funding for Conferences (GeoStars Fund)

Geosciences students, including those who have recently graduated, commonly attend annual national and regional meetings of the Geological Society of America (GSA). To have the cost of conference registration waived, students are expected to sign up to volunteer at the conference. In order to work as volunteers, students must be GSA members. Students may ask the Department of Geosciences to be reimbursed for the cost of joining GSA. They will be responsible for paying their own subsequent annual membership fees.

The Department of Geosciences will usually pay for student housing at meetings, based on 4 students per hotel room occupancy.

For local meetings, the Department also commonly provides transportation via Smith College vans. To help pay for travel to meetings for which van transportation is not provided, students usually apply for funds from the College (see the link above). Students can also apply for partial funding for travel from the Geosciences Department. The amount will depend on the overall cost of travel but is likely not to exceed \$300 per student per conference.

Students presenting at a conference may also apply to have their abstract fees covered.

To apply, submit your request to the Geosciences Department Chair. In your application include the name and dates of the conference you plan to attend and a copy of any abstracts that you may have submitted. Also include a list of anticipated expenses and the level of support you are seeking from the Departmental GeoStars Fund and from other sources. Have your advisor review your application before you submit it. There are no specific application deadlines. You can apply for funding before the conference or request to be reimbursed up to 30 days after the conference.

Note that the Department may also choose to pay for students to attend special conference events such as, for example, the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) Networking Breakfast and Awards Ceremony. With support from the GeoStars Fund the Department also sponsors a gathering of former and current students and faculty at the national annual GSA meeting.

Funding for Field Camp and Other Geological Field Experiences (Schalk Fund)

If you need financial help to attend a Geology field camp, conduct geological field research or participate in other activities to gain more field experience, you may apply for support from the Geosciences Department Marshall Schalk Fund.

To apply, submit your request to the Geosciences Department Chair. Include in your application the description and dates of the field activity. Also include a list of anticipated expenses and the level of support you are seeking from the Schalk Fund and from other sources. Please have your advisor review your application before you submit it.

Note that you are not eligible for Schalk funds if you are receiving money from Praxis for the same activity. Any amount that you receive from other sources will be subtracted from your Praxis award.

Recently, successful applicants have received several hundred dollars, but never more than \$1000, from the Schalk Fund.

Upon completion of the funded activity, recipients of Schalk awards must submit a short (1 page) report to the Department Chair (for circulation and inclusion in the departmental file) that reflects on the value of the field experience gained with help from the Geosciences Department Marshall Schalk Fund.

For more information, speak with the Geosciences Department Chair, your Geosciences advisor, or the Departmental Administrative Assistant in the Science Center Office.

Application deadlines:

Sept. 30 – for Fall semester activities;

Nov. 1 – for Interterm and Spring semester activities;

April 1 – for Summer activities.

Funding for Research Supplies and Analytical Expenses (GeoStars Fund)

Geosciences students can apply for funding from the Departmental GeoStars Fund to help cover expenses for research supplies and analytical expenses beyond those covered by their research advisors, external Grants-in-Aid of Research, or other College funds including SURF Supplies Funds and Tomlinson Fund for Honors Research.

Have your research advisor review your application before you submit it to the Geosciences Department Chair. Your application should include your overall budget (i.e., a list of anticipated expenses with justification) and the level of support you are seeking from the GeoStars Fund and from other sources. Application deadlines – same as listed above for field camps and other field experiences.

Assistance with Geological Field Gear

The Department has a GEO Gear Swap program for all students, faculty, staff and alumnae to donate any field gear (hiking boots, clothing, sleeping bags, etc.) they no longer want. Current Geosciences students in need of field gear can borrow any item from the GEO Gear Swap free of charge. Information on how to access the program is communicated regularly to all declared Geosciences students. For additional information please contact the Geosciences Department Chair, your Geosciences advisor, the Departmental Administrative Assistant or Technical Assistant.

Geosciences students can also borrow (free of charge) Brunton compasses and rock hammers from the Department. For information please contact the Departmental Technical Assistant.

For assistance with obtaining hand lenses, Geosciences students should speak with their Geosciences advisor at the time they declare their majors.

Current Geosciences students can apply to be partially reimbursed from the Departmental Schalk Fund for gear rental from the Smith Outdoor Adventure Program (<http://www.smithpioneers.com/sports/2017/1/31/outdoor-equipment-rental.aspx>) or for the purchase of field gear, especially hiking boots. Please see a Geosciences faculty member to discuss your purchases beforehand.