

UCML Global South Travel Bursaries Proposal

Ongoing debates in UCML and in its member associations have highlighted that strengthening global collaborations and fostering a more diverse and inclusive context in research and teaching are two priorities for the Modern Languages in UK. The costs involved in creating global collaborations and keeping them active are high, though, to the point of preventing the development of joint projects and the participation of worldwide scholars to British events. This is particularly problematic for academics working in the so-called 'Global South'¹, for whom travelling to the UK, paying travel-related expenses (including visa, or medical certificates), or obtaining travel permits can be insurmountable obstacles.²

After a discussion developed within the UCML Small Grant committee, we propose that UCML leads the sector in the creation of the **UCML Global South Travel Bursaries**, that will enable travels from the Global South for ML projects, in order to scale up Global South partnership building.

1. there will be one or two grants per year for incoming scholars
2. each grant will be of £2,000-2,500
3. UCML member associations and institutions will be asked to contribute financially to the UCML Global South fund
4. member associations and institutions will be responsible for selecting one scholar/project each, to be submitted to the UCML selecting committee
5. selection criteria tbc; they will be broad enough to allow different types of collaborations (from conference attendance to visiting scholarships at British universities)
6. Timeline tbc

It is hoped that the UCML Global South Bursaries will be matched by other types of institutional funding. In creating them, UCML aims at leading by example and contributing to the generation of a virtuous circle of active support to Global South partnerships and collaborations.

References

- Nihan Albayrak-Aydemir, 'The hidden costs of being a scholar from the Global South' [blog post], *LSE Blogs*, 20th February 2020
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/highereducation/2020/02/20/the-hidden-costs-of-being-a-scholar-from-the-global-south/?fbclid=IwAR0uTeXGNjMn8vMBLGBwqsGovutaqIUvwOIGN64mxsoAGpBfcefRmJ6Ja6M>

¹ Global South: three main definitions: 1. 'for some scholars and many non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Global South generally refers to countries classified by the World Bank as low or middle income that are located in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean'; 2. 'scholars use the term global South "to address spaces and peoples negatively impacted by globalisation", including subjugated peoples and poorer regions within wealthier countries'; 3. 'other scholars and activists use the term to refer to a transnational political subjectivity and subaltern resistance under contemporary capitalist globalisation' (Marlea Clarke, *Global South: what does it mean and why use the term?*, blog post, *Global South Political Commentaries*, University of Victoria, August 8, 2018).

² Nihan Albayrak-Aydemir, 'The hidden costs of being a scholar from the Global South' [blog post], *LSE Blogs*, 20th February 2020

Commented [LW1]: I think this is a really good idea. I have some reservations about who takes part.

- 1-I'm not sure we can ask for additional monies for members and institutions
- 2-If an institution doesn't make an additional contribution, can they still apply?
- 3-If we are asking for matched funding, then the institutions most able to offer this are probably ones with budgets to enable this kind of project anyway. The real potential beneficiaries here could be institutions and individuals who can't access internal funding streams. That's where (I think) this idea has the most potential to be transformative.

Commented [CE2]: This definition includes Eastern Europe: <https://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/grants-awards-fellowships/global-south-travel-grant/>

Commented [CE3R2]:

Commented [LW4]: I wonder whether we might follow the BA approach to Mid Career (and possibly other) Fellowships, where there is a tendency towards inclusivity and flex in eligibility if the person meets the broad aims of whom the funding is aimed at- ie spirit rather than letter of the law.

Commented [LW5]: Will this be an additional levy on institutions? I'm not sure about this. What is an institution doesn't contribute? Are they still able to apply?

Commented [CE6]: Add eligibility criteria?

Commented [CE7R6]: See also here: <https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=2049&nodeID=1> - e.g either (a) be enrolled in a PhD program or (b) be a member of a college or university faculty - in ML?

And this: <https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=491&nodeID=1> - being part of an underrepresented group?
500 word statement? Requirement to present a paper?

Commented [CE8]: Eligible costs? Travel and accommodation? Visa? Covid tests? Reference needed to Government travel guidelines and possibly changing situation? Need to present paper or other (or not)?

Commented [LW9R8]: I agree we need to set out eligible costs, and the ones above are sensible. I don't think we should insist on specific outputs (e.g. a paper)- I think we should let the partnerships develop organically.

UCML Exec

16th April 2021

- Marlea Clarke, *Global South: what does it mean and why use the term?* [blog post], *Global South Political Commentaries*, University of Victoria, 8th August 2018, <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/globalsouthpolitics/2018/08/08/global-south-what-does-it-mean-and-why-use-the-term/#:~:text=For%20some%20scholars%20and%20many,Latin%20America%20and%20the%20Caribbean>

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