

Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel (\$1500)

Background:

The Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel annually provides financial support to a graduate student in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences (GEO) who will **conduct international research within the next 12 months**. A high degree of academic excellence is expected in the work of the M.S. or Ph.D. student who receives this Fellowship. This fellowship honors the contributions of Dr. and Mrs. Sommers, who for several decades advanced the study of geography worldwide and supported MSU's international programs. The Sommers family came to East Lansing in 1949 with Dr. Sommers' appointment to Michigan State College. When the Department of Geography at MSU was created in 1955, Dr. Sommers became its first Chair, and served in this role for 24 years. Over these years, he conducted international geographic research and travel in numerous countries, especially those in Europe, with Mrs. Sommers, and was actively involved in the programs of the International Geographical Union. Dr. Lawrence Sommers was also one of the leaders in developing international studies and programs on campus, which resulted in the creation of an International Studies Building and an International Studies Center with numerous centers and programs that remain active today.

Instructions:

Eligibility: M.S., and Ph.D. students in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences at MSU who conduct their thesis/dissertation research outside of the United States. **All of the following documents must be e-mailed to Dr. Ryan Shadbolt (shadbolt@msu.edu) by 01 March, 5:00PM ET.**

- (1) Completed application form, including budget and justification (see next page).
- (2) A one page (maximum) personal statement that briefly describes the research topic, country where the work will be conducted, and justification for the need for funds to support overseas travel. A stronger application will be one where the student explains how their research interests align with those of Dr. Sommers, and does so by reading and citing at least one of Dr. Sommers published papers.
- (3) One letter of recommendation (one page, maximum) from the graduate student's advisor, e-mailed to Dr. Shadbolt by the deadline. *Each student should contact their advisor at least two weeks prior to the deadline to allow enough time to complete this task.*

Recipients will be invited to attend the annual GEO-GTU Awards Reception, and may be asked to write a letter expressing appreciation to the estate that funds the award.

The application form is on next page; **delete this page** before submitting your application.

GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICATION

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Name:	Circle one: M.S. Ph.D.
E-mail:	Year in program:
For PhD students only : Written Comps completed (date)? Oral Comps completed (date)? Defended dissertation proposal (date)?	
Graduate GPA (overall):	Expected graduation date:

Graduate GEO Courses (completed & in progress)		Graduate Non-GEO Courses (completed & in progress)	
Course	Grade	Course	Grade

Add lines if needed.

Accomplishments (publications, awards of grants/fellowships, conference presentations, etc.)

Budget	
Expense	Amount (\$ USD)

Add lines on separate sheet if needed.

Budget Justification