

Beecroft Graduate Student Travel Grant

The Donor

John W. R. Beecroft, born in Superior, Wisconsin, in 1902, and a 1922 graduate of Superior State Normal School (now the University of Wisconsin-Superior), was Editor of the Literary Guild book club from 1936 until his retirement in 1961. Under his direction, the Literary Guild became perhaps the most successful and influential book club in the United States.

“At one time it was estimated that John Beecroft each month chose books purchased by 2,500,000 readers. By far the largest number of these books were being mailed to readers in small towns, on farms, in areas where there were poorly stocked libraries and no bookstores. At the same time that Beecroft was turning the Guild into a hugely successful financial enterprise, he was also creating an entirely new reading audience. People were reading books who had never read books before.”

Beecroft’s collection of books he had selected for Literary Guild was willed to the University of Wisconsin-Superior, where it is available for scholarly study. In addition, he set up a trust fund for students at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, to be known as “The Beecroft Scholarship and Travel Fund,” which became available upon the death of his wife in 1991. Income from the trust is available to the university on a semi-annual basis for undergraduate student loans and graduate student travel grants.

Quotation from Leo J. Hertzler (1976). *Popular culture and the book clubs*. Wisconsin Academy Review, 22, 4.

Terms of the Trust

1. To be distributed to graduate student “whose graduate work would be aided or enhanced by travel.”
2. The maximum amount available to any one recipient shall be \$1000.
3. The recipient may use the grant for travel in any foreign country (excepting English speaking Canada), the province of Quebec, or the New England States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.)

Campus Guidelines and Eligibility

First Priority Eligibility

Students formally admitted to Graduate Studies presently enrolled in coursework at the University of Wisconsin-Superior or enrolled within the 12 months previous to the proposed travel, who have not yet completed their graduate work.

Second Priority Eligibility

In the interest of furthering cultural diversity within the graduate studies programs, international students formally admitted to Graduate Studies are eligible to receive Beecroft Support for travel from their home country to the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Ineligibility

Non-degree (special adult) status students are not eligible.

Funding Preference

Funding preference is given to (rank ordering below):

1. Students gathering information directly pertinent to their graduate thesis.
2. Students presenting at workshops, conferences, or exhibitions, if the presentation is based on graduate work at UW-Superior.
3. Travel reimbursement for newly admitted exceptional international students (excepting Canadian) in financial need.
4. Students expanding their cultural knowledge base through activities directly relevant to their academic or professional work.
5. Other requests which fall within the trust guidelines.

Application

Students apply by completing the Beecroft Travel Grant Application form available at the Office of Graduate Studies or online at www.uwsuper.edu/graduate/forms. If the number of requests can be expected to exceed the available funding, a deadline date for submission of requests will be set and publicized. Notification should occur within one month after the deadline. If the number of requests are not expected to exceed funding, requests may be submitted at any time, and should be responded to within one month of submission.

Recipients of the grants are selected by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Graduate Council.

Verification of Travel

Beecroft Travel Grant recipients must provide a brief presentation of their experience.