

This document contains anonymized applications that have scored very highly in the GPSO Travel Award review process. The exact prompts and questions have changed slightly since these applications were scored, but since much of the content overlaps with the current questions, we hope they are still useful examples of successful applications.

At the time, the two prompts that applicants responded to were the following:

1. Explain the perceived importance of the event within your discipline, and optionally the importance of the event in a broader context. If you had to apply or meet some kind of selectivity requirement (e.g. submitting a paper through a peer-review process), make sure to mention that. Describe the relevance of the travel to your professional development and area of study. (max. 300 words)

2. If you ARE traveling to present: Describe your role in the project being presented and the importance of that role at this stage in your career. Explain your contributions to the project so that someone not in your discipline can understand. (max. 300 words)

If you are NOT traveling to present: Describe the necessity for attendance at this stage in your career, and how this event will impact your professional development. (max. 300 words)

Sample Application #1

1. The conference I will be attending, the 6th Annual International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP) is one of a small handful of major conferences in the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP), which is the focus of my dissertation research. The conference is extremely competitive, with acceptance relying upon anonymous peer review of finished papers, rather than abstracts. Though the acceptance rates for 2013 have not been made public yet, in general, the rate at IJCNLP is around 30%, so acceptance is an honor and indicative that one's research is among the most important in the field at the time of submission. As mentioned above, a finished paper must be submitted for acceptance to IJCNLP. This serves two purposes: first, to ensure the quality of the work being presented; second, all accepted papers are published in the proceedings of the conference, meaning that along with the conference presentation, acceptance here also means gaining a highly visible publication. There are few journals that focus specifically on NLP, so the conference proceedings from main conferences such as IJCNLP are treated similarly to journal papers in our field. Thus, being the first author on this paper will serve as a highlight on my CV as I begin to apply for jobs in the coming months. My attendance at IJCLP 2013 is an extremely important step in my development from graduate student to professional linguist. Conferences such as IJCNLP are without question the best way to stay up to date with current best practices and cutting edge methodologies in the field. Moreover, as I near the end of my Ph.D. studies, this conference will be a great opportunity to network and meet with prospective employers. Thank you for your consideration.
2. As the first author on this paper, along with my advisor, [redacted], and [redacted], a colleague from Wellesley College, I have been at the center of this research project. This paper is part of a larger project that myself and my coauthors have been working on over the past three years. Throughout the length of the project, I have been handling nearly all of the implementation of our ideas, writing thousands of lines of novel computer code and working with machine learning software to carry out our agreed upon methodologies. For the current work, I have also taken the lead in designing the methodology and making decisions that take the research in new directions when we come to a dead end. I have also taken on the task of handling lead author duties in writing a bulk of the material for this publication. The experience gained from taking the lead on this project has been a boon to my professional development. First of all, in designing and implementing this research I have gained experience, knowledge, and skills

that will prove invaluable as I move forward in my career. Perhaps even more importantly, I have gained the confidence that I can take on new research projects and offer useful solutions even to problems with which I am less familiar. Along with these personal advancements has come the ability to quickly assess a research project so that I can offer insight to younger students or my peers in a collaborative setting. In the field of computational linguistics, we have job opportunities in both academic and industry settings. The hands-on experience I have gained through designing and engineering this research project would prove useful in both settings.

Sample Application #2

1. The British Quilt Study Group (BQSG) is the section of the Quilters Guild of the British Isles whose members conduct and publish research on all aspects of quilting. Their research is known and respected internationally amongst folklorists and material culture scholars. The BQSG seminar is the annual meeting where international and British members convene to share the latest in quilt research. The presentations at this conference are all invited. My particular paper was selected as part of a peer-review process in which I first submitted an abstract for consideration and then, after the abstract was accepted to be developed into a full paper, the paper was peer-reviewed by leading scholars in British quilt history. My paper was also one of two selected for publication in the 2014 issue of "Quilt Studies," the journal of the British Quilt Study Group. Please note that not all papers presented at the seminar are selected to be published. This is my first peer-reviewed journal article based on my dissertation research and it will be published alongside an article by Dorothy Osler, a leading academic authority in quilt studies. I was also one of two international scholars invited to present, though multiple scholars from the US and other European countries were in attendance. In addition to securing my first major publication, presenting at this conference allowed me to connect with international quilt scholars whose work was foundational for my own research. This network is critical as I begin the job search process and has already led to invitations to return to conduct research at other institutions in the United Kingdom. The discussions with attendees after my presentation also yielded fruitful ideas for additional articles based on my dissertation and for ways to continue to develop and expand my dissertation research for publication as a book.

2. I am the sole author for this presentation and it is the first article that I have written about the results of my dissertation research. It was also the first major presentation of my doctoral work to scholars outside of my research committee and is leading to my first peer-reviewed publication. The presentation allowed me to expand my academic network and introduced my work to leading scholars in the field of quilt studies. As such, it has served as a spring board for launching my academic career in my final semester as a doctoral student at IU. The paper I presented utilized data collected on 140 quilts, all of which I personally photographed, sketched, measured, and described as part of my dissertation research. These quilts came from the collections of five different museums in the US and the UK, which I traveled to in order to document the objects as the information I collected cannot be easily gleaned from photographs alone. Quilt studies is a relatively young field in both the US and the UK, with modern research into the topic beginning in the 1970s. During the past 40 years, scholars in each country have worked to document their own traditions, leading to a wealth of information on regional and national styles but relatively little information on connections in quilting traditions between countries. My paper is part of a new movement to compare international traditions to highlight shared histories and periods of more isolated development. My research has the potential, when combined with material culture research in other forms such as architecture and ceramics, to illustrate broader social and political changes in American national identity, its role in the lives of everyday citizens, and the relationship between citizens of the US and the UK during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Sample Application #3

1. The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is the largest organization (over 42,000 members) of scientists devoted to advancing our understanding the nervous system, and the SfN annual meeting is the largest assembly of neuroscientists in the world. This meeting is the premier venue for showcasing research in neuroscience and learning about new experimental methodologies in a wide variety of neuroscience-related research areas. As a graduate student it is necessary to present your research at the prestigious SfN conference if you want your work to be widely recognized and are interested in a career in neuroscience. Developing the abilities to clearly and confidently present your work to other scientists is critical for obtaining a post-doctoral fellowship or faculty position, and personal interactions during poster presentations frequently result in collaborations on future projects, troubleshooting experimental protocols, and job opportunities. As a fifth year student in the middle of collecting data for my dissertation, my poster presentation

will draw faculty interested in my area of research who are searching for post-doctoral students in their lab, and we will be able to talk one-on-one about my past and future research. These impromptu conversations are professional opportunities unique to the SfN meeting. Additionally, I have scheduled meetings with other potential post-doctoral advisors during the conference to discuss post-doctoral fellowships and my future research. These planned meetings serve as informal interviews for post-doctoral positions, and only at SfN will so many potential employers be convened in the same place, allowing for interviews with universities across the country in one location. For all these reasons, the SfN annual meeting is the ideal conference for presenting my work to an interested, diverse crowd, and for networking with future collaborators, and ultimately, securing a post-doctoral position, the next step in my career as a neuroscientist.

2. I have been in charge of every aspect of the project I will be presenting: the only co-author on this project is my PhD advisor, who provided the lab materials for the experiment. I generated the idea for the project, planned the experimental design for the project, and proposed the idea to my advisor. We agreed upon the details of the study, and I completed the lab work for the experiment, collected and analyzed the data, interpreted the results, submitted the proposal for this conference, and created the poster. Additionally, I performed the studies that motivated the current project. This background work includes my first and second year graduate school projects, which were completed with my advisor as the only other co-author. I am first author on these projects, and they are both published in the peer-reviewed journal *Developmental Neurobiology* ([citation redacted]; [citation redacted]). Similarly, the project I am presenting at this SfN meeting will be submitted for publication following the conference, and I will write the manuscript for this paper. At this stage in my career, my role in this project is critical: this research would not have been completed without me, and will not be presented without me. As a senior graduate student, my role as the sole executor of research projects is of utmost importance, as I my dissertation research is all self-generated, and will be self-completed. My past success in autonomously completing research projects resulting in quality data and publications demonstrates that I will be successful with my dissertation and with my post-doctoral research as well.

Sample Application #4

1. The music compositions chosen for performance at Electroacoustic Barn Dance have been adjudicated and selected from composers all across the world. It is a great honor that my composition, [name redacted], has been selected for performance as most of the other presenters will be distinguished faculty and professional electroacoustic composers from around the world. By presenting my composition at this conference I will be demonstrating my unique compositional skills, as well as the strength of the Electronic Music program at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The important benefits of attending this conference are as follows: 1) Allows me to interact with my audience before and after the concert, getting feedback from them as well as answering questions about the creation of the piece and the electronic music program at Indiana University.^[SEP] 2) Allows me to observe the presentation of pieces by faculty and professional electroacoustic composers and see what they are composing and researching.^[SEP] 3) Allows me to form personal relationships with professionals from around the world that may be influential in my future career path.^[SEP] 4) Allows me to interact with performers that may have an interest in doing collaborative projects in the future that involve interactive electronics. 5) Those at the conference will observe the current work of an Indiana University graduate student thus bringing respect, prestige and honor to our university.
2. As the composer of the work, I will oversee the electronic setup required to perform [name redacted] as well as run the electronics during the performance. I will be at the mixing board position controlling the mix of all the sounds in the piece. It is crucial that I be there personally to present the piece because the Electroacoustic Barn Dance stipulates that no works will be performed without the attendance of the composer. My presence will only be made financially possible with the receipt of this generous aid. I sincerely thank you for your consideration.