

Yale Law School



International Academic Research: Frequently Asked Questions

YLS is able to support international academic research during the Fall term, and the Winter, Spring, and Summer recesses.

This research must be for credit and under the supervision of YLS faculty: no exceptions.

The Streicker Fund for Student Research provides support for academic projects requiring **international** travel. Examples include field research, in-country interviews with relevant stakeholders, and archival research. Research trips are typically conducted during extended academic recesses (e.g., summer or winter break).

DEADLINES and APPLICATION are available at:

https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/center/gruber/streicker_application_03_23_2020.pdf

1. Am I eligible?

- a. All registered YLS students are eligible: JD, LLM, and JSD. You must, however, be returning to YLS following your research travel. **3Ls and LLMs are ineligible for summer travel support.**

2. May I apply more than once?

- a. You may reapply if your proposed research will be carried out over multiple semesters or years. You should meet with the Director of International Law Programs to discuss your reapplication. If your reapplication is for a completely new research topic, priority is given to first time applicants. Your subsequent award might not cover your full request.

3. May I apply together with my research partner(s)?

- a. You may submit joint applications. In your proposals, you must explain the reasons for the joint project and the research component each individual is undertaking. Your budgets should align and, if possible, reflect economies (e.g. share accommodations, ground transport).

4. **What expenses are covered?**

- a. Eligible expenses include air/rail transport, ground transport, reasonably priced accommodations, and necessary expenses related to research such as reasonable translation and/or interpretation costs, archive fees, and/or existing data sets.
 - i. For air transport, only the lowest published economy fare is covered, pursuant to Yale University rules (<https://your.yale.edu/policies-procedures/policies/3301-travel-university-business#3301.1>).
 - ii. For ground transport, we will cover public transportation or a shared shuttle service to and from airports. We will cover taxis, lyft/uber, only if (or only up to the amount) of the cost of a shared shuttle/per person. [e.g., should more than one person be traveling, we would cover taxi fare if it is equal to or less than each of your shared shuttle fares.]
- b. Ineligible expenses include meals, phone/internet, technical equipment, conference travel and registration fees, courses/training, and entertainment.
- c. “Reasonable” is established by the market and may vary. You are responsible for undertaking the necessary research to support your request.

5. **What about Visa Fees?**

- a. You are responsible for researching and obtaining any visas necessary for you to enter the country or countries you plan to which you plan to travel. Make sure you leave adequate time to secure the visa – this can sometimes take upward of one month. We do not cover visa fees unless it presents a hardship (you must provide proof) and we NEVER cover the cost for expedited issue or delivery. Please reach out to International Law Programs staff to discuss your situation.

6. **What about immunizations/medications?**

- a. You are responsible for investigating what immunizations and/or prophylactic medications are required. Information can be found at the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov). We will not cover the cost of a travel clinic visit, nor the cost of immunizations or medication except in the very rare cases where financial hardship is a barrier. Please reach out to International Law Programs staff to discuss your situation.

7. **What about refunds?**

- a. We ask that you exercise the care in booking flights, hotels, and any activities that are non-changeable and/or non-refundable. **Any changes you need to make are at your own expense.** If fronting these costs presents an undue financial hardship, contact International Law Programs staff.
- b. In the COVID 19 pandemic, we may ask you to hold off on making any travel bookings until it is certain that you can travel and return, observing all health and safety restrictions such as self-isolation/quarantine for 14 to 21 days.
- c. Only in cases of *force majeure*, such as governments closing borders, enforcing quarantines, Yale requesting students to return, etc. will we consider reimbursing you the additional expenses, noting that you are required to make reasonable efforts to obtain refunds and credits.
- d. For personal medical or other emergencies

ISOS will cover expenses related to changed travel plans.

See ISOS description, para. 21.

- e. Yale University does not permit reimbursement of travel insurance; however, under certain circumstances, it may be prudent to take out trip cancellation insurance (provided it covers ANY reason). Please discuss with International Law Programs staff before purchasing.

8. What enrichment activities are covered?

- a. The Streicker fund is meant to encourage your research trip to be as immersive as possible. All enrichment activities should be aimed at contextualizing your research topic by engaging with and understanding the culture, people, place.
- b. Activities might include: a cooking or language class/exchange, a walking tour/national park visit for a specific purpose, (short term) volunteering with a community group, etc.
- c. Entertainment will not be covered such as museum admissions fees, shows/concerts, general tourism.
- d. Budgets for enrichment activities are capped at \$250/person.

NB: “Enrichment activities” is an experimental program and subject to change. Applying for such additional funding is optional. As directed to in the application, you must explain how these enrichment activities further the immersive nature of your research trip and bring insight to your research. You also must include a more elaborated discussion (of approx.250 words) in the narrative report that is due when you return from your Streicker trip.

9. What is the average amount awarded?

- a. There is no average amount, as the length and location of research can be variable. Generally, awards generally cover 90% of all eligible costs.

10. Who can supervise the research?

- a. Any YLS faculty member, including visiting faculty, clinical faculty, and lecturers. Visiting faculty, however, must be able to review and award credit for the work that required the research.

11. What are eligible research projects?

- a. Any research you are doing **that will receive credit** is eligible. This may be the Supervised Analytic Writing (SAW) or Substantial Paper connected to seminars, courses, or independent research and writing under YLS supervision. Other projects may also be appropriate if under YLS faculty supervision for credit.
- b. **NOTE BENE: All projects involving human subjects must first be submitted to and reviewed by Yale University’s Human Subjects Committee. Please refer to https://your.yale.edu/sites/default/files/studentprojects3_10.pdf. (see below)**

12. How many credits must I earn?

- a. A minimum of one credit, so long as it is being supervised by YLS faculty is sufficient. The credit may be graded or ungraded.

13. What counts as “human subject research?”

- a. A human subject is a living person about whom you receive identifiable private information through either a direct interaction with the person or through access to private data sources.

14. What is an IRB/Human Subjects Committee?

- a. Yale University policy requires that all research projects involving human subjects be reviewed by an institutional review board (IRB) prior to the start of the study to ensure that the project meets University requirements and any applicable regulations. The Human Subjects Committee (HSC) is one of the University IRBs which reviews non-biomedical research projects. Please refer to this link for further information:
https://your.yale.edu/sites/default/files/studentprojects3_10.pdf

15. What should be included in my proposal?

- a. Your proposal is a **2 to 3-page description of your project**. In it you will explain:
 - i. What the project topic is
 - ii. Why you are undertaking this research
 - iii. Why the travel is necessary
 - iv. How you will accomplish your research (methodology)
 - v. How this project ties in with your legal education
 - vi. What the anticipated final work product is
- b. We ask that you situate your research question in the relevant literature by providing a **short literature review**: citations to the leading cases (if appropriate, books, and articles) with which your research engages.
- c. We also ask for a provisional schedule of interviews, visits to archives etc.
 - i. Term breaks often coincide with vacation periods; we want to make sure you can successfully and efficiently accomplish your research. Please verify that the people and places you wish to visit will be present and available.
- d. If you are applying for enrichment activities, you must explain how each activity enhances your understanding, relates to your research, and furthers your immersion in the culture. (see previous section).

16. What should be included in the budget?

- a. You should include as separate line items your estimated amounts for all eligible expenses. Provide supporting documents for estimates (e.g., airfare quotes, hotel rates, etc.).

17. What should be included in my professor's recommendation?

- a. The recommendation should confirm that s/he will be supervising this research for credit. S/he should also reflect on the research question, including its importance, contribution, etc., the necessity of travel, your qualifications, and its feasibility.
 - i. Email is fine, and the recommendation can be concise.

18. When may I travel?

- a. Typically, travel should be during school breaks: Winter, Spring, and Summer. During the Fall term, or any other time, you should strive not to miss your classes. In the event missing class is unavoidable, you must receive advance permission from your professors and make arrangements for notes or recordings so that you can make up the class.

19. How long must I stay?

- a. The length of stay depends on your research needs. Be realistic. Should you wish to travel/stay longer for reasons unrelated to your research, please disclose this in your proposal.

20. Where do I find travel information?

- a. We suggest you use Google Flights, Kayak, or other air fare search engines; Lodging can be found via hotels.com, tripadvisor.com, Airbnb.com and so on.

21. Am I covered by insurance?

- a. Students are covered by ISOS—for both medical and evacuation insurance (as well as other services) as well as its member center. Please refer to <http://world-toolkit.yale.edu/resources-topic/travel/orientations/grad-prof/planning>

22. I've never been to this country, but I want to do research there. What should I do?

- a. In general, you should learn about your destination. You can find some guidance at <http://world-toolkit.yale.edu/resources-topic/travel/orientations/grad-prof/planning>

23. I don't speak the language. Am I still eligible?

- a. Yes, if your research in this country is necessary for your project.
- b. However, language barriers are real and may hamper your research. Do bear in mind that meaning is often lost in interpretation and translation and can be costly in terms of time and money. Local cultural and societal knowledge, which may be relevant to your research, is rarely accessible without language competency.
- c. Lack of language ability should be seriously considered in developing your research project and any gaps addressed in your proposal.

24. I am concerned about safety and security. What precautions should I take?

- a. Please refer to information available at <https://world-toolkit.yale.edu/resources-topic/travel/orientations/grad-prof/planning>
- b. If you are planning to travel to a country subject to heightened economic, security or health concerns as evidenced by the US State Department, Centers for Disease Control, I-SOS, or Yale University, please refer to Yale Law School's international travel policy found at <https://law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/areas-interest/international-law/international-travel-policy>.

25. When will I receive the funds?

- a. Awards are typically made on a reimbursement basis. In other words, you will be reimbursed for approved expenses upon timely submission of original receipts. In cases of financial hardship, an advance payment may be possible with sufficient prior notice. Award letters will clarify relevant details.
- b. If traveling with one or more people, you each must pay for your own expenses. Paying for others places an administrative burden on International Law Programs staff.

26. What are the reporting requirements?

- a. The reporting requirements are described in the award letter. You are expected to comply with them. Streicker scholars are required to attend the annual dinner (usually held in September or April) with Mr. Streicker.