

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 are found on the [website](#). Applications are reviewed at the same time, shortly after the deadline. There is no great advantage to early submission.

APPLICATIONS are available [here](#).

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.**

NB: Priority is given to first-time applicants who receive financial aid. (You will be asked to affirm your status on the application.)

2. May I apply more than once?

- a. **No.** Streicker scholarships are limited to one per student.

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

- a. You may submit joint applications; however, each of you should be doing unique research. 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, accommodations (modest and reasonably priced), and necessary expenses related to research such as reasonable translation and/or interpretation costs, archive fees, and/or existing data sets.
 - a. 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>).
 - b. 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 equals or is 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.

NB: Awards are capped regardless of the actual expenses (see schedule at the end of this FAQ). Awards may only cover a portion of eligible expenses.

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](#). 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. Only in cases of *force majeure* (such as governments closing borders, enforcing quarantines) will we consider reimbursing you the added expenses, noting that you are required to make reasonable efforts to obtain refunds and credits.
- c. For personal medical or other emergencies [ISOS](#) will cover expenses related to changed travel plans. [CAS-password protected link]
- d. Yale University does not permit reimbursement of travel insurance; you may purchase at your own expense (speak to us first though!)

8. 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 researched work.

9. 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 considered 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](#). (see below)**

10. 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.

11. What counts as “human subject research?”

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

12. 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](#).

13. 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:
 - What the project topic is
 - Why you are undertaking this research
 - Why the travel is necessary—especially why zoom/virtual interviews are insufficient.
 - How you will carry out your research (methodology)
 - How this project ties in with your legal education
 - What the expected 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 proper, books, and articles) with which your research engages.
- c. We also ask for a provisional schedule of interviews, visits to archives etc.
 - a. Term breaks often coincide with vacation periods; we want to make sure you can successfully and efficiently carry out your research. **Please verify that the people and places you wish to visit will be present and available.**

14. 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.).

15. 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.
 - a. Email is fine, and the recommendation can be concise.

16. May I use my research trip to travel home and/or to a “resort” destination?

- a. No. There is a **presumption against travel to one’s home country or to resort destinations**.
- b. This presumption may be overcome upon request. Make sure to check the box and explain the basis for your request on the application form. If called for, an ad hoc committee (composed of Yale law faculty/senior administrators) may be convened to make the determination.

17. May I combine my research trip so that I can take part in another Yale Law School program abroad?

- a. No.

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 [Yale's international travel page](#).

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 [here](#) and [here](#).

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 must be 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 Yale's resources [here](#) and [here](#).
[CAS password protected]
- 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](#).

25. When will I receive the funds?

- a. Awards are 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 must follow them. Streicker scholars are required to attend the annual dinner (usually held in

the Fall or Spring term) with the donor.

AWARD SCHEDULE

1. While your actual travel expenses may be higher (or lower), **reimbursement will be capped** based on the categorization of the destination country (or countries). Awards may only represent a portion of the eligible budgeted expenses.
 - a. High expense destinations are capped at **\$3000**:
 - i. Europe (including Russia)
 - ii. The Middle East/North Africa/Gulf States
 - iii. Central Asia
 - iv. South Asia
 - v. South East Asia
 - vi. East Asia (including China, Japan, Korea)
 - vii. Pacific Islands
 - viii. Australia/New Zealand
 - b. Mid-to-high expense destinations at **\$2200**:
 - i. South America
 - ii. Sub-Saharan Africa
 - c. Low expense destinations at **\$1600**:
 - i. Mexico
 - ii. Central America/Caribbean
 - iii. Canada (except for Arctic travel which is high expense).

Should this cap present an undue financial hardship, an ad hoc committee (composed of Yale law faculty/senior administrators will make a timely, individual determination, subject to an ultimate cap of \$4000.) Make sure to check the box and explain the basis for your request on the application form.