

Northwestern

BUFFETT INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Support for Northwestern Faculty & Graduate Students

Northwestern Buffett is dedicated to fostering meaningful engagement across borders of all kinds — bringing the brightest minds from Northwestern University and around the world together to address critical global challenges that can't be solved from a single disciplinary or geographic perspective. Our programs catalyze and support collaborative work on global challenges. All Northwestern Buffett programs are open to faculty and graduate students from across the University. We prize interdisciplinary engagement, risk-taking and global impact. Northwestern Buffett support falls into five main categories:

Northwestern Buffett Idea Incubation Process

We support faculty in interdisciplinary global research that addresses United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our programs support idea formation and research incubation through the following vehicles:

Idea Dialogues

Idea Dialogues convene Northwestern faculty from different disciplines and schools for informal explorations of a question or topic of global significance. We help curate interdisciplinary groups and prepare and facilitate the discussion in a 1.5-hour workshop that may be held in-person, virtually or in hybrid format. The goal is to uncover new perspectives and questions that seed research projects around global issues. Idea Dialogues can lead to follow-up conversations, small collaborations or partnerships or our annual Idea Incubation Workshop. Idea Dialogues are held on a rolling basis from May through December.

Idea Incubation Workshop

The annual Idea Incubation Workshop reconvenes Idea Dialogue groups for three 3-hour work sessions designed to develop broad ideas

into proposals for concrete research projects. We help curate interdisciplinary groups and facilitate the process. Participating groups share proposals with a selection committee of Northwestern faculty and other experts for the opportunity to receive Northwestern Buffett grants. The workshop takes place annually during a weekend in March, with funding decisions publicly announced in April.

Global Working Groups

Northwestern Buffett Global Working Groups work together as interdisciplinary research teams based on the project proposals generated through the Idea Incubation Workshop process. Funding: \$150k per year for two years plus ongoing administrative support. Funding may cover course buy-outs, graduate assistantships, and other support for the proposed projects.

*Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges
Global Working Group*



Catalyst Grant Recipients

Catalyst Grant Recipients work together as interdisciplinary research teams to further develop projects proposed at the Idea Incubation Workshop. Funding: Up to one year of partial financial and administrative support. Recipients can re-apply for Global Working Group grants.

Small Grants for Faculty

Global Collaboration Grants

The Northwestern Buffett Global Collaboration Grants are designed to facilitate Northwestern faculty projects with international collaborators across organizational, disciplinary, and cultural boundaries. These global collaborators can be faculty members at other institutions, leaders from global civil society, government, private sector individuals or community organizations.

Faculty may use these grants to explore new faculty research opportunities through global research sites visits, travel to and from collaborating entities and hiring research assistants; invite global collaborators to campus for short virtual or in-person residencies, such as lectures, workshops, conferences and symposia; provide global opportunities for classroom partnering and joint virtual teaching; or develop community-centered projects in dialogue with community leaders, local governments and nonprofit organizations. The maximum annual award is \$10,000, and applicants are limited to one award annually. Applications periods are quarterly and close on October 15, March 15 and June 15.

Discover Fulbright Opportunities

Research and Professional Exchange

The Fulbright Program provides grants to scholars, practitioners and artists to travel abroad and conduct research, carry out professional projects, study or teach through various programs, including the [U.S. Scholar Program](#) and [Specialist Program](#).

Northwestern Buffett serves as the University's [Fulbright Scholar Liaison](#), facilitating increased participation in the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program via institutional level support and peer-to-peer engagement. Northwestern Buffett has also launched a pre-application travel award designed to support faculty members in developing or strengthening their Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program applications.

Hosting Visiting Scholars

The [Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program](#) provides grants to international scholars from over 100 countries to conduct post-doctoral research at U.S. institutions. These relationships between Northwestern faculty hosts and visiting scholars are typically organically developed. However, Northwestern Buffett serves as an Administrative Official for the program and offers guidance to faculty who wish to host Fulbright visiting scholars.

Support for Faculty Hosting Visitors

Visiting Scholars

Northwestern Buffett supports faculty members who wish to host visiting scholars and prioritizes applications from Buffett-affiliated faculty hosts. These visitors are typically sponsored

or employed elsewhere, whether by another university, a government agency, nongovernmental organization or industry. Faculty hosts may request resources for the visitor such as office space, housing and/or nominal funding requests. Application periods are quarterly and close on September 15, January 15 and April 15.

Graduate Student Support

Dissertation Research Travel Grants

Dissertation research travel grants support Northwestern doctoral candidates and terminal master's students who are conducting dissertation research outside the U.S. Dissertation projects should address one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Applications are due October 15 for winter and spring projects and March 15 for summer and fall projects.

Conference Travel Grants

Conference Travel Grants support Northwestern doctoral students and terminal master's students who are traveling to present their research at a professional academic conference in a location outside of the U.S. Applications are rolling and due on the first of each month for review by the end of the same month.

Graduate Assistantships

Northwestern Buffett offers a number of Graduate Assistantships in support of Global Working Groups and Northwestern Buffett programming to assist with project management, data collection and analysis, and writing.

Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship Program

Our Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship Program provides financial and programmatic support to an interdisciplinary cohort of graduate students in their 3rd through 7th years. Financial support includes enhanced stipend and tuition coverage for one year (three quarters). Programmatic support focuses on essential dissertation support and on professional development and growth opportunities that will improve young scholars' prospects on academic and non-academic job markets, offering the cohort access to networks, skills and mentoring to explore career opportunities for global studies PhDs in international affairs, policy and development. Applications open annually each winter quarter.