**Governance Initiative Application Form and Instructions**

*Conference Travel Grants*

[North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2022 Conference](https://egc.yale.edu/events/neudc-2022), 5-6 November 2022, Yale University, New Haven, CT, US

**Description**

J-PAL’s Governance Initiative (GI) is extending a conference travel grant program to fund travel, lodging expenses, and conference fees for researchers currently based in low- or middle-income countries conducting research on governance topics who wish to present at or attend the NEUDC 2022 Conference on November 5-6 at Yale University, New Haven, CT, US.

This conference travel grant program will support funding for up to two researchers, with a *preference for applicants who intend to present at NEUDC.*

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for a conference travel grant, a researcher must:

* Be residentially based in an academic institution in a low- or middle-income country.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Have graduated from, or be currently enrolled in, a PhD program in economics, political science, or a similar subject.
* Be nominated by a J-PAL affiliate or GI invited researcher.
* Be currently working on research that addresses questions related to governance topics, as outlined in the [GI Review Paper (executive summary here).](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/review-paper/governance-initiative-review-paper-executive-summary)
* Have experience conducting randomized evaluations; or otherwise have a strong interest in and understanding of randomized evaluations.
* Have plans to present their governance-related research at NEUDC 2022, *or* otherwise attend the entirety of the conference as a participant. **Please note that applicants who wish to present their paper at the conference must separately submit an application directly to NEUDC before their deadline of August 15, 2022.**
* Not currently be a GI invited researcher or a J-PAL affiliate.
* Be able to acquire a US visa, if needed, that covers travel for the duration of the conference.

**Grant details**

The conference travel grant fully covers the following expenses:

* Economy-class airfare and lodging.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Conference registration fee.
* International health insurance.
* Per-diem stipend, subject to MIT’s state and local per diem restrictions, for the duration of the conference to cover other incurred expenses, such as meals, taxis, and visa expenses.

**Instructions**

Applications for the conference travel grant for NEUDC must consist of (i) an application form, which includes a cover sheet and narrative, and (ii) a letter of support from a J-PAL affiliated researcher or GI invited researcher. These materials should be submitted to [GI@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:GI@povertyactionlab.org) by **11:59 p.m. ET on 5 September 2022**.

**Application Form Narrative**

The narrative should not exceed two pages in length, including appendices, and use 12-point font. It should include:

1. A concise statement of the applicant’s research topic, explanation of the applicant’s desire to present at or attend NEUDC, description of past or ongoing research and/or interest in governance, and description of past experience and/or interest in using randomized evaluations to answer questions related to governance topics.
2. If applicants are submitting a paper/planning on presenting at the conference, they must include an abstract of their paper, as well as a brief discussion of the paper’s relevance to key questions in the [GI Review Paper (executive summary here).](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/review-paper/governance-initiative-review-paper-executive-summary)

Grantees who receive funding must submit a brief narrative report within one month of the conference. This final report must contain a description of the grantee’s experience at the conference, including a description of any papers they presented on as well as new or refined research ideas, and a description of the conference sessions they found most interesting and relevant to their work. With permission of the author, this report might eventually feed into J-PAL external communication (e.g. blog post).

**Letter of Support**

In addition to the application form with narrative, applicants must submit a letter of support from a J-PAL affiliated researcher or GI invited researcher. The letter of support should be limited to one page and should reference the applicant’s research skills and ability or interest in conducting governance-related research through the use of randomized evaluations.

PhD student applicants are required to submit a letter of support from a J-PAL affiliated researcher or GI invited researcher who serves as an adviser on the applicant’s dissertation committee at their host university.

Letters can be included in the applicant’s submission packet or sent directly to [GI@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:GI@povertyactionlab.org).

**Submission Instructions**

Please submit an email with the following attachments to [GI@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:GI@povertyactionlab.org):

1. A cover sheet and 1-2-page narrative (12pt font) saved as a single Word or PDF file.
2. A letter of support saved as a PDF file, or the letter writer may send the letter of support directly to [GI@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:GI@povertyactionlab.org).

The deadline for submissions is **11:59 p.m. ET on 5 September 2022.**

**GI Coversheet**

*Conference Travel Grant: North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC) 2022, Yale University*

*Please note that all fields are required*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant NAME and Institution of residence | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| LETTER OF SUPPORT WRITER and institutional affiliation | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| Title of Paper (if applicant is SUBMITTING TO CALL FOR PAPERS/presenting) | | | Country of project (if applicant is presenting) | |
|  | | |  | |
| PROPOSED TRAVEL DATES \* | | | | |
| Start Date:(yy-mm-dd) |  | End Date:(yy-mm-dd) | |  |

\* Please note that the conference takes place on November 5-6, 2022.

1. We broadly define a low- or lower-middle income country following the guidelines set in the [UN’s World Economic Situation and Prospects,](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/WESP2019_BOOK-web.pdf) (2019, p. 172). If you have questions about your country’s eligibility, please contact us at [GI@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:gi@povertyactionlab.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. J-PAL will put grantees in touch with an MIT travel agent who can book reasonably priced, economy-class international travel and reasonably priced, safe hotel lodging in New Haven and charge J-PAL directly. Any additional travel expenses outside of the conference (e.g.: a side trip to see a relative) should be covered personally by the traveler. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)