

MEG: Maastricht Enrichment Grant

Application Instructions

About the Grant:

The Center for Global Education has established a fund to provide students participating in the Maastricht program small grants to undertake independent academic/cultural enrichment activities during the course of their semester abroad. These grants are intended to encourage students to immerse themselves in the local/regional culture and to explore and learn more about something of particular academic or personal interest. The MEG program awards small grants to students to pursue projects that 1) spring from their own interests, 2) help grantees have a deeper cultural/educational experience, and 3) can be brought back and shared with the HWS campus community and/or the local Geneva community.

MEG grants are awarded up-front to students studying abroad in Maastricht. Students must complete grant requirements and submit a detailed expense report (including receipts) within the first month of returning to campus after their semester abroad. The maximum award is \$650.

Designing Your Project:

The best projects spring from students' own interests. Typically, the most compelling grant proposals we receive come from students who are passionate about a topic and display genuine curiosity and determination to see the project through to completion.

You may want to explore something entirely new to you with your project. Perhaps you have never learned how to play a musical instrument or how to cook certain types of food and want to try. On the other hand, your project may represent an extension of something you already do, but in a new context. Perhaps you write poetry and attend open mic nights on-campus and want to explore the literary scene while abroad. Or you are an athlete and play on a team and want to learn more about sports in your host country. Both approaches to a project can work.

Think outside the box. Some of the best projects have been unconventional in topic/approach.

Eligibility:

MEG grants are available to HWS students participating in the semester-long Maastricht, Netherlands program. Grant funds may be used to cover travel expenses subject to the limitations outlined in the Colleges' International Travel Policy, which may be found [here](#). Certain high-risk activities may be prohibited due to liability issues. Note that MEG grant funds cannot be used to cover student meal expenses.

How to Apply:

This may be your first time writing a *grant proposal*. A grant proposal is basically an essay in which someone seeking funding for a project clearly explains the who, what, where, how and, most importantly, the why of their project idea. The proposal must include the following sections:

Heading: Title of grant, name of applicant and complete contact information.

Executive Summary: Explain your project in one sentence. For example: *In Maastricht I will become a member of the local artists collective and document the experience through audio interviews with other members and photographs that I will then turn into a digital story.*

Narrative Description: Describe the rationale for your grant, focusing on why the topic interests you, how you imagine it will facilitate engagement with the local culture and community, and how it will provide you with a deeper cultural and educational experience abroad. Be as specific about how you will pursue your project as possible and don't forget to discuss how you will share it upon your return to campus.

Equipment Loan (optional): Do you need any technology (a video camera, audio recorder, digital SLR or point/shoot camera to complete your grant? The CGE has a stock of equipment to loan out to students. Include any desired equipment in your grant proposal.

Budget: Be as specific as possible and do some research to provide estimated costs in your proposed budget. You might contact a local organization for information that will help you make your grant more concrete. The budget should be in the following format:

Artist Collective membership	\$115
Admission Fees to 5 Museums	\$130
Train to Rotterdam (\$66) and Amsterdam (\$90)	\$155
<u>Lodging: Rotterdam (\$70) and Amsterdam (\$85)</u>	<u>\$155</u>
TOTAL: \$555	

Application Tips:

How will you share your project when you get back? You have many options, including:

- Submit written work (stories, essays, poetry), artwork, or photographs for publication in the CGE's journal *The Aleph: A Journal of Global Perspectives*
- Make a digital story, a 'zine or tell a story about your project at *Away Café*
- Arrange a performance/demonstration (ex. music, dance, cooking) on campus
- Curate a photo exhibit in one of our *Global Visions Galleries*
- Contribute to one of the CGE's *Global Cafés*

Grant recipients also will be expected to participate in the CGE's annual spring global experiences event to present their projects – this may include a poster session, performance, photo display, etc.

Be specific! The narrower the focus of your project and the more well-designed the project is, the greater the chance of success (however, you will also want to be flexible enough to take advantage of unexpected opportunities once you are abroad). You cannot really expect to make a movie about "Vietnam and the World," but you could make a short digital story about doing community service teaching dance at a Vietnamese school. The MEG program is about using a very specific interest as an entry-point into a broader understanding of the people and culture you will encounter abroad.

Submit your proposal (as a Word document) to Hannah Mathews, Pre-departure and Re-entry Programming Coordinator in the Center for Global Education, at HMathews@hws.edu by:

- **October 25th by 11:59 PM (for all Spring semester programs)**
- **March 25th by 11:59 PM (for all Fall semester programs)**

(REV AUGUST23)