

Help with funding your travel:

Though there are limited funds available to support student travel to the UAEM Conference, we strongly encourage all attendees to look for local resources which can usually easily provide for the airfare required to attend the conference. After registering for the conference, you can apply for travel funding, but please let us know if you are successful in finding other funding sources.

Below are a number of resources, to help you in applying for travel funding from your university.

Typical Campus Funding Sources

Dean of Students Office

This is usually the first place to go when seeking funding for student proposals. The Dean of Students office has usually set aside funds to be used to pay for student proposals and projects developed over the course of the year that are not covered in the student organizations' operating budgets. The Dean of Students Office also might be very helpful at identifying other funding sources on campus.

Student Government/Student Activities Committee

Student governments generally allocate annual funding among various student groups as early as the spring of the previous year. Depending on the school, the student government may also have access to sources of additional funding throughout the year. If possible, you should check with your student government to see if they have money set aside for individual student projects. Academic

Departments/Academic Programs/Research Center

Some UAEM members have been able to get funding from their academic department, academic program, or research center (e.g., the Department of Global Health and Population, the MD/PHD program, or the X Center for Health Law Policy). If any member of your chapter is planning on writing a student paper or conducting graduate-level research related to access to medicine issues, there is a good chance the department will be able to fund travel to the conference as part of that research.

Specialized Grants

Campuses may have specialized funds applicable as conference travel grants. Check with your Dean of Students Office and ask your friends whether they have been successful at receiving funding for their projects from specialized sources.

Tips for Writing a Proposal

Research your itinerary before-hand and create a budget

This allows you be accurate in your requests and insures you will not be getting too much or too little funding for your trip (running over or under-budget can hurt an organization the next time it applies for funds). It also shows funders that you have thought through your proposal and will spend their money wisely.

Check out kayak.com or statravel.com to get the current lowest rates on flights. Also think about how you will travel once you reach the conference (e.g. public transit, taxi).

Explain that you have applied for funding elsewhere

Funders are especially willing to fund projects where students have received partial funding from elsewhere. Obtaining other funding shows initiative and commitment to making the project happen, and lets the funder know that the project is worthwhile.

Explain why your visit to the campus will accomplish the goals of the funding source

If you are applying to the Dean of Students Office, for example, you will want to stress how your trip will benefit the student body by allowing you to bring ideas home from the conference to fuel other campus activities, and how it is a vital educational experience for the students who participate. Mention the events your chapter has organized, events you plan to organize, and ways in which your work ties in with other work being carried out on campus. If you are applying for departmental funding, by contrast, it will be important to show how the conference will benefit your research.

If you will be putting on a presentation at the conference, say so

On some campuses, it is much easier for students to get funding if they inform their funders that they are traveling to the conference not just to listen, but to present their own work.

Sample proposal language:

Intro to UAEM: UAEM is an international global health nonprofit with US 501c3 status. Its members are graduate and undergraduate students working to improve how universities use their medical research, discoveries, and innovations to benefit populations in low- and middle-income countries. UAEM members advocate at universities and in the global health arena for socially responsible patenting and licensing practices that promote affordable medicines for poor populations, and work to ensure that university medical research meets neglected global health needs.

Description of conference: UAEM's annual student conference is an ideal arena for students in [YOUR FIELD: medicine, law, and public health] programs to hone [whatever is relevant: leadership skills, interpersonal communications, knowledge of complex global health issues], while networking with global health leaders (such as Sophie Delaunay, head of Doctors Without Borders USA and UAEM's 2013 keynote speaker; and Stephen Lewis, the former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa as well as former Executive Director of UNICEF).

Students have the opportunity to network with leaders in this field, such as [Dr. Suerie Moon from the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Anthony So of Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy...etc... ask staff for list of previous participants in your field], while learning about their research directly, and meeting peer students interested in the same topics. This opportunity would benefit my studies in many ways, such as [explain how it relates/augments your studies].

Post-conference benefits: Many UAEM alumni who attended conferences are now serving in high-level positions in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Doctors Without Borders, and others, while still more are physicians and scientists at Yale, Harvard, and other leading academic institutions. UAEM allowed them unprecedented access at a young age to hone their STEM skills to be advocates for change, and it would greatly impact my work at [your institution] to have support to attend this conference.