Sustainability Abroad Micro Grants (SAMGrants)

In 2024, the Office of Global Engagement in collaboration with UGA’s Office of Sustainability will be launching a new program offering Sustainability Abroad Micro Grants of $750 to UGA undergraduate students studying on UGA faculty-led study abroad programs or on UGA sponsored exchanges with partner institutions abroad.

SAMGrants are intended to support independent student projects focused on sustainability in connection with their studies abroad. Students may begin working on their projects before departing and continue to work on their projects following completion of the program. Grant recipients should not expect to receive assistance with their project from the program director or any program faculty. Projects cannot replace course work offered by the study abroad program or otherwise be counted toward program credit.

For the purpose of the grant, sustainability is broadly defined and includes projects addressing environmental, social or economic challenges that would fall under one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Funds can be used to undertake independent research, document successful sustainability efforts in the host country, coordinate an event on-site, improve the infrastructure at the study abroad location, or support community identified needs. Students who receive a SAMGrant will be asked to write a short reflective essay upon its completion. The Office of Sustainability will also provide grant recipients with the opportunity to present their project in a public forum.

Globally—and locally—we face many pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges, including hunger, biodiversity loss, poverty, and climate change. Sustainability provides a guiding framework for reducing environmental impact, enhancing social well-being, and improving economic security. SAMGrants support student projects aimed at creating a more sustainable future, while incentivizing applied student learning outside the classroom and deeper engagement with host locations and communities abroad. In this way, the grants contribute to overall student success and students’ professional development.

Students interested in applying for SAMGrants are encouraged to attend one of the information sessions we will be offering in January 2024. Sessions will address any questions students may have about possible projects and will offer assistance with the application itself. Sessions are scheduled for:

- January 24, 4-4:30 PM
- February 8, 4:30-5 PM
- 248 Miller Learning Center

Application deadline for projects undertaken in Spring and Summer 2024 is February 16, 2024.

To apply, please click here and complete the short application form. For further questions, please contact sustain@uga.edu.