

Frequently asked questions

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Q: If the applicant is affiliated with a university and awarded a grant, does the funding get sent to the institution? If so, does BSA support indirect costs? Some grant funding organizations have guidelines on this, and indeed some do not allow the support of indirect costs -- to ensure all the funding goes to the recipients of the grant, and not lost to cover administrative overhead across the university. University-sponsored program offices (which manage the accounting of grants) respect these requirements if spelled out.

A: Grants are intended for individuals or teams and may be paid either to individuals or to institutions. Grant funds paid to institutions are not to be used for indirect or administrative costs. (See the sixth bullet under the "Submission guidelines" section of the "Call for Proposals" at www.architects.org/grants.)

Q: What are the rules about indirect cost? How much will BSA allow for indirect/overhead cost required by my school?

A: See the response to the first question above.

Q: Is there precedent for funding or willingness to fund an international design competition? We are interested in administering a research and design ideas competition to generate strategies for improved housing in communities subject to climate change-related flooding in Bangladesh.

A: It is a wonderful idea but this research grant program funds only original research; funding for a design competition would not be considered.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

Q: Are there any restrictions on a PhD student applying as principal researcher and working in collaboration with his/her adviser?

A: No; student/faculty teams are encouraged to apply.

Q: We have assembled a multidisciplinary team to collaborate on our proposed project. Our question is whether the "Principal Researcher" must be an individual on the grant application or if it can be listed as a team?

A: The team may be listed as principal researcher although it is helpful if one person is identified as the coordinator to facilitate communication regarding the grant process. If awarded a grant, the team will also need to identify an individual, organization, institution or firm/company to receive and to be responsible for the appropriate use of any funds granted. (See the "Application Form" included in the "Call for Proposals" at www.architects.org/grants.)

Q: Can funds be allocated to a sole proprietor architecture firm/think tank?

A: Yes; sole practitioners and other individual practitioners/researchers are encouraged to apply.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Q: If my project is outside the U.S., is it eligible?

A: The proposed research may be focused on any region of the globe. However, the applicant must be living in the U.S.

Q. Are you are interested in supporting research by international students? Does the research need to be done regarding topics that are pertinent to the U.S or can you propose research topics based on the analysis of circumstances outside the U.S.?

A. Students and others outside the U.S. may apply but the primary researcher must live in the U.S. The range of topics to be explored, on the other hand, has no geographical limitations.

Q. I will be applying as an individual researcher and intend to conduct my research in coordination and collaboration with a university abroad and would like to know if grant monies awarded will fund travel expenses, particularly for travel outside the United States

A. Grant funds may be used for travel if travel is a necessary part of the original research. Proposed, but funds are not likely to be granted for someone simply interested in exploring design/architecture in other countries or regions.

Q. Is it possible for international teams to apply for a BSA Research Grant? If so, are there any specific or special conditions/requirements for the application?

A. Yes, but the primary researcher must live in the U.S.

PUBLICATION RIGHTS

Q: I intend to submit an application to support ethnographic data-collection and interpretation regarding the development of socially equitable and environmentally sustainable-housing codes in Austin, Texas. Some of this material will ultimately be published in book form. Will BSA retain all publication rights to all related material if a grant is awarded? Or, would BSA reserve publication rights only to the final report stipulated in the notice?

A: The BSA reserves nonexclusive rights to publish the grant reports. The BSA does not restrict other publishing opportunities for the funded research. (See the "Conditions" articulated in the "Call for Proposals" at www.architects.org/grants.)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Q. Is there a limit to how much we can apply for?

A. No; but there is a limit on amounts we will grant.

Q. If you are applying for the \$40,000 grant and do not get it, are you automatically considered for another category? If not, can you submit multiple applications under different categories?

A. All applications are considered for all levels of funding available.

Q. We are doing a joint project with another organization and I was wondering if it would be appropriate to apply for the \$40,000 grant. If we apply to that category, do we hurt our chances of receiving funding? Should we apply to both the \$10,000 grant and the \$40,000? The instruction didn't explain the distinction or if there is a distinction in the application process? Any clarification would be appreciated.

A. All applications will be considered for funding at all funding levels.

Q. Since the premise of this call for applications is practice-based, is the development of a proposed built work or prototype expected as a result of the research endeavor or is the development and articulation of a well-defined and outlined methodology for design sufficient?

A. It is not expected that the original research will result in a built project.

Q. In the list of project credits, what exactly do you expect? Can you elaborate?

A. The project-team credits as detailed in the call for proposals is a list of the names, postal addresses, and email addresses of all institutions and individuals who will be part of the research team.

Q. In the biographical section of the grant application, it states: "No identification of the applicant should appear on this page". Does this mean we should conceal the primary researcher's name and current institution? Can you mention past schools attended, universities taught at, and previous architectural studios you were affiliated with?

A. Yes; you need only conceal your name -- your past and current affiliations may be listed.

Q. Regarding the identification of the applicant, you note that no name should appear on the proposal. However, in a biography it is hard to avoid listing employers, affiliations, authorship of books, etc. These days one can find names from those through Internet. Should I conceal just my name as mentioned in the application form?

A. Yes, concealing your name is adequate.

PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Q. Would it be possible to get any information or feedback on the proposal we submitted last year so we can avoid any issues that may have disqualified or compromised that submission?

A. No applications were disqualified or compromised last year. In our annual letters to all applicants reporting the results of the grant-making process, we invite applicants to call us for feedback on their applications.

Q. No applications were disqualified or compromised last year. After reading over last year's questions regarding identifying affiliated institutions in one's bio, it occurs to me that we may have been disqualified as several of these were mentioned in a previous proposal. Should I also refrain from mentioning that I am BSA/AIA member as well? Should I list my degrees but not my universities; types of projects I do but no actual listing of completed work; positions held but not organizations?

A. Membership in the BSA/AIA is not relevant in this program. You may list anything you wish except your name.

Q. Our work recently has been mentioned in a BSA publication. If that is noticed by the grant-making jury in this program, will we automatically be disqualified?

A. No. However, we do not fund already completed research.

Q. It is mentioned in the guidelines that the grant is taxable income. Is it the compensation part (which makes sense) or the total that also covers other research and education-related expenses? Please clarify.

A. The entire grant is taxable income. You may be able to claim expenses as a tax deduction but you should discuss this issue with your tax advisor.