

****Exemplar Simmons Graduate Council Application****

Please describe the events to be funded and how they align with the goals and mission of your department. (300 words maximum)

Dr. Smith, my research advisor, invited me to collaborate with her in submitting a proposal to present findings from our current project at the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR). I am ecstatic that our proposal has been accepted and look forward to the conference as it has been recommended to me by several colleagues with similar research interests. Attending would certainly foster my growth as a researcher and educator and aligns directly with the mission of Simmons in three ways. First, the content to be presented at the conference would “integrate theory, research and practice of education and human development” and introduce me to cutting-edge reading research. Second, the experience of participating in an educational research conference as well as the knowledge gleaned therein would impact my “professional practice.” Finally, having the opportunity to present original research and navigate the conference with an experienced researcher will teach me how such networking and knowledge-sharing events “nurture collaboration across the academic community.”

Why is it important for the Simmons Graduate Council to support this funding? How will participation in your proposed activity help you achieve your future professional and academic goals? (400 words maximum)

Besides aligning theoretically with the mission of my department, this opportunity would fulfill the presentation requirement for my degree plan. All PhD students must present at a conference to be eligible for candidacy. Moreover, gaining experience presenting internationally would strengthen my skills, confidence, and vitae. This experience would make me a more competitive candidate for a tenure-track position in the future, should one become available in my field. Representing SMU abroad would be an honor and disseminating our research to such a diverse group would connect the Hilltop with researchers from all over the world. Presenting our findings from the feasibility study would allow me to improve my presentation skills and refine how to relay the purpose and findings of the English Learner Vocabulary Acquisition (ELVA) research project to a diverse audience. Feedback received during the poster presentation would be considered when moving forward with the ELVA project and enable us to make improvements. Furthermore, the feedback would help us as we draft the manuscript of the feasibility study, by enabling us to report the findings with more clarity and appeal. This would make the article more likely to be published, which is valuable to SMU and represents another requirement for my degree. Less important but equally exciting, this conference would also grant me an opportunity to practice my Portuguese skills which I always fear will fade, because I do not have frequent opportunities to interact with Portuguese speakers. It is important for the Graduate Council to support this project, because although the prospect of presenting at the SSSR conference is exciting, it is also financially overwhelming. As can be seen in the attached budget, this event will be very costly. Even so, given my career goals, I consider this a wise investment of my time, money, and energy. I would greatly

appreciate any assistance the Graduate Council might offer to help make this possibility an actuality. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Travel plans: Provide a brief description of your funding request including itinerary, travel expenses, mileage if it is a local trip, and any other pertinent information. (250 words maximum)

Travel expenses will include a round-trip flight from Dallas to Porto, the SSSR student membership fee, and the student-member cost of the conference, as outlined in the attached budget. Additional expenses, such as the hotel, will put me over the annual limit for Graduate Council funding, so I have not included those.