Laarman International Gift Fund

The Laarman International Gift Fund (LIGF) was established in January 2010 to support creative and important international research by graduate students in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources (DFER) at NC State University. The LIGF supports research on any topic related to conserving and managing forests, natural resources, and/or biophysical environments outside of the United States.

In 2017, we expect to award two LIGF grants to graduate students in DFER for international field research. We may award only one or as many as four grants. The amount requested can range from $500 to $5000, although we are most likely to award grants of less than $3500.

Any graduate student enrolled for a Masters or PhD degree in DFER is eligible for funding from LIGF. We expect that most LIGF grants will support thesis or dissertation research. Participation in international study tours, internships, or conferences is generally not eligible for support from the LIGF, except in cases where it is clearly integral to the research project. Research must focus on a forest-related issue outside the US, although it may be part of a comparative, cross-country research project including the US. Applications from previous recipients of Zobel or Laarman Grants may be given lower priority.

Students receiving support should be in good academic standing and making progress towards a degree in DFER. Specific criteria are (1) quality of the research proposal, judged on importance and creativity, (2) intensity and quality of the international experience, including potential contribution to lasting international partnerships, (3) financial factors, including whether the fund will leverage additional sources of funding, financial need of the student, and evidence of careful budgeting and efforts to obtain additional support, and (4) academic potential of the student.

A 2-3 page report, suitable for publication on the Department webpage, must be submitted within one month of completing the international activity. This report will also be shared with Dr. Jan Laarman.
For priority consideration for the 2017 calendar year, apply by **January 16, 2017 (5:00PM ET)**; however, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until March 31, 2017 or until funds are exhausted\(^1\). Students should apply for either a Zobel or a Laarman grant (not both, although the international committee reserves the right to fund grants from either source).

Application should include:

a) cover page with your name and contact information, title of your proposal, total amount requested, and name of your academic advisor, indicating your advisor’s approval of the proposed international activity);

b) a one-page proposal describing the international activity and how it meets the criteria outlined above;

c) a detailed budget, indicating other sources of funding already secured and other funding proposals submitted; and

d) a printout of your (unofficial) transcript.

Applications should be compiled into a single PDF and submitted to Steve McKeand by email (Steve_McKeand@ncsu.edu), with cc to your adviser indicating that s/he supports your funding request.

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\(^1\) For 2018 applications, we intend to move the deadline to December 1, 2017. This earlier date will give recipient(s) of the funds more time to better plan for summer research.