Detailed instructions

American Studies Center is pleased to announce a competition for research grants for MA and BA students to support their work on their MA theses and BA papers. The research must be related to a BA paper being written in conjunction with a BA seminar or an MA thesis. 3rd year BA students and MA students of all years will have priority.

The maximum amount of a grant to be awarded is 4000 PLN, the maximum number of 4000 PLN grants we can offer is three. Should we receive applications budgeted at less than 4000 PLN, we may be able to award more than three grants (last year we awarded four). The money may be used to pay for travel to libraries to research specialized collections, for the purchase of books, for the fees to access online databases, and other resources necessary to complete their projects. The grants will be awarded to the authors of the best MA and BA research proposals.

Note: if you wish to use the grant for book purchases, those books will be returned to the ASC library and added to its collection after the completion of your project. Also, make sure the books you need are not available at sites like Archive.org (https://archive.org/), Project Gutenberg (https://www.gutenberg.org/), HathiTrust (https://www.hathitrust.org/), or other online libraries. For estimating the cost of books, use Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/); there is a chance that when the books are ordered, we will find cheaper prices and may be able to stretch your award.

Note: if you wish to travel to an archive, your application should specify precisely which collection(s) you will use in your research and how each collection is crucial to completing your project.

Note: These grants cannot be used as reimbursements for travel already taken or books already bought. Nor can they be used for travel to conferences; they are intended to facilitate new research.

The grants will be awarded to the authors of the best MA and BA research proposals. By “best” we mean the grants will go to those proposals that, in the committee’s estimation, most clearly explain the nature and goals of the project, justify the necessity of the funds requested to completing the project, and present a reasonable plan for how the grant will be used.

Interested candidates are asked to submit a research proposal of about 600 words stating:

1. Your name, year of study, title of the project

2. Research problem and its academic and/or cultural relevance

3. Research methodology

4. Research schedule (NOTE: the money must be spent before you finish your studies at the

ASC or by December 15, 2027 at the latest, whichever comes first)

5. Budget (include estimates of plane/train tickets, lodging or of the cost of specific books. We understand that tickets and lodging can go up and down, but if the cost of tickets should rise and exceed the award, no extra funds will be available to cover the difference.)

6. Justification for the expense, i.e., explain why this money is needed for completing your research. That is, explain why the specific material in the archive, the specific book(s), or other resources are crucial to writing your essay or thesis.

The research proposals should be submitted by email as a pdf or Word document to the Head of the committee: Prof. William Glass (w.glass@uw.edu.pl) by December 7, 2026. Do not send a link to a Google document. The final decision will be made by the committee members: Prof. William Glass, Prof. Bohdan Szklarski, Dr. Krystyna Mazur, and Dr. Jan Smoleński, by the end of December, 2026.