

## Commonly Asked Questions for Prospective GBatNet Student Representatives

- What are some examples of tasks GBatNet Students have been asked to do in the past?
  - GBatNet students have been asked to assist with in-person event logistics tasks, creating GBatNet-related PR materials, notetaking, website maintenance, moderating events, delivering public informational sessions to talk about GBatNet, speaking about GBatNet at conferences (e.g. at a booth), public outreach, translation of materials, summarizing data, assistance with fulfilling reporting requirements, to name the major examples. For any of the above, should this be something you are interested in doing but do not have familiarity with, we will provide training for it.
  - As part of the goals of GBatNet to have students be integrated into leadership roles, we have required involvement of the students as working group leaders and also encouraged students to join and contribute to member networks and their activities.
  - We have had professional development events virtually (thus far quarterly though this frequency may change) and also in-person (usually prior to a GBatNet meeting/activity) conferences that you will be required to participate in (unless there are some extenuating circumstances).
- How much travel is involved with being a GBatNet Student?
  - Thus far, we have had at least one annual in-person event for GBatNet leadership, which includes all the 4 co-PIs on the NSF AccelNet grant, the Steering Committee, the GBatNet Students, and/or Network Representatives and Working Group Leaders. There has also been at least one scientific meeting per year that GBatNet Students have attended. Prior to the meeting there is usually one student training day specifically for the GBatNet Students and then also another extra day where the Network Leaders and/or Working Group Leaders would be in attendance. Students may also be requested to assist with GBatNet activities that require travel that is region specific. For example, US students were asked if they were available to attend the North American Symposium for Bat Research.
- Are travel costs covered by GBatNet?
  - GBatNet will cover costs if you are traveling for a reason related to GBatNet activities—so if you are traveling, we will buy the ticket for you along with booking accommodations. During your travel, if you have incidental costs (e.g. taxi fare to the airport, lunch while traveling, etc.), please keep the receipts so that we can reimburse you upon arrival at the event. While on travel, you will also receive a per diem in cash that can be used for your meals and other expenses.
  - For airfare, we are limited by the restrictions of the US National Science Foundation on how we can spend the funds from the AccelNet grant. If you are traveling for a GBatNet activity, that must be with at least one of the end-points being an American city.
  - For visas, GBatNet will assist with that by paying for costs related to the visa, which includes the cost of the visa itself and any travel costs you incurred trying to get the visa. Just keep your receipts so that we can reimburse you. If you are applying for a visa to the US, we will write a letter that explains the reason for your travel to the US, which can sometimes be accepted by the embassy/consulate to help you get an earlier interview date than what is listed on their website (which, for some countries may be so many months further in the future).
- Bats only form a part of my overall research but not all of it, but I am still interested in applying for GBatNet, am I eligible?
  - Yes, you are still eligible. We are interested in engaging with the broader scientific community, so this aspect of your interests can be of great value to GBatNet as we

continue to extend our communication about bats and GBatNet to a wider audience (both professional or public).

- I do not already work on bats, but I am starting to work out on them, am I eligible?
  - Yes, you are still eligible as long as you are interested in working on incorporating bats into your research in the long term. On the application, there is a question related to the future vision you have of your work on bats, and that could be a place for you to describe more of your future plans if you do not feel that your past experiences sufficiently reflect your interest in bats. We value people from multiple disciplines and backgrounds to contribute to GBatNet and want to support interest in bats in everyone.
- I am a US student who is attending a university overseas, can I apply?
  - Yes, you are eligible to apply and will be considered a US student in our demographic report to NSF.
- I am a US student just starting in a doctoral program, am I eligible to apply?
  - Yes, we have relaxed the eligibility rules for this round of selection where we are now accepting US students who are only in their first year.
- Do you think I am ready to apply to be a GBatNet Student?
  - If you think you are available to commit time and energy to working with GBatNet (see tasks and travel above) and also are ready to work extensively in a team format, there is no reason for me to think you are not ready to apply. I suggest trying to go through the questions for the application listed on the website and asking yourself if you are able to answer them in some way (doesn't always have to be bat-related).