

BGC Student Emergency Fund

The mission of the Bard Graduate Center Student Emergency Fund (BGCSEF) is to provide relief from extraordinary financial stress and enable students to maintain engagement in their BGC research and academic careers. The BGCSEF was created in April 2020 by faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and friends joining together to support BGC students who found themselves in need as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. We are committed to ensuring that students are given every opportunity to succeed, in and out of the classroom, regardless of obstacles presented by unpredicted life events. Funds from the BGCSEF are available to support any current Bard Graduate Center student.

The fund aims to assist any student experiencing unexpected, significant challenges, despite efforts to be adequately financially prepared. Unforeseen circumstances may include, but are not limited to, a sudden and substantial loss of family income, bereavement or other personal emergency travel, expenses related to unexpected illness, or other urgent personal needs that impact the student's ability to complete their research. Students may also apply to the fund for an interest free, short term loan to cover temporary cash shortfalls. Please note, the emergency fund is not a supplement to financial aid and cannot provide long term financial assistance.

Currently matriculated MA and PhD students at BGC who need assistance should email BGCemergencyfund@bgc.bard.edu or complete [the request form](#). All BGCSEF requests will be reviewed as requests are submitted, on a confidential basis, by a committee of BGC faculty, staff, alumni, and board members.

Funding Guidelines

The Bard Graduate Center Student Emergency Fund (BGCSEF) can support requests for the following:

- Necessary Educational Supplies (i.e books, laptops)
- Temporary food and / or housing assistance
- Medical expenses
- Emergency Related Travel (ie, bereavement)
- The Bard Graduate Center Student Emergency Fund (BGCSEF) does not provide funding for the following:

- Research travel costs
- Rent for family members
- Cell Phones

FAQs

How do I apply to get support through the BGCSEF?

Complete the BGCSEF request form on the webpage or via email.

How much financial support can I get through the BGCSEF?

Typical requests range between \$100 and \$500, with the maximum request being \$1,000.

When will I know if my request has been reviewed?

The BGCSEF committee meets as applications are submitted. Decisions are usually made within 3-5 days after a request has been made.

How long will it take for funds to be transferred to me, and how are they distributed?

Funds are usually available 2-3 days after the student has been informed of the decision. Funding will be directly deposited into a designated account though other options for distribution may be arranged.

How do I get in contact with someone on the committee?

You may email bgcemergencyfund@bard.edu or you may email one of the committee members directly.

Can I apply for funding through BGCSEF more than once?

Yes. The committee will review multiple requests, but approval is not guaranteed. If the committee is unable to approve your request, we will provide information on other resources where available.

How are funds raised for the BGCSEF?

Financial support for the BGCSEF comes from faculty and staff as well as from BGC board, alumni, and friends.

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

All current matriculated MA and PhD students are eligible to apply for support.