**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**

**Student Collections Study Award**

**Background**

The NHM Collections Study Awards were instituted to provide funding for undergraduate and graduate students to visit and study the collections of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum, and the William S. Hart Ranch and Museum (The Natural History Family of Museums). Collections visits must be arranged through the appropriate department’s collections manager.

**Deadlines**

There are two award deadlines each year: **April 1st** and **October 1st**. Applications should be **submitted as a single combined PDF document via email to Nathan Smith (nsmith@nhm.org)**. Prospective applicants should contact the relevant curator and collections manager of the collections they wish to visit before assembling proposal materials.

**Eligibility**

The Collections Study Award is open to all undergraduate and graduate students that are currently enrolled in an accredited degree-granting program. International undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to apply, but should contact museum curators if assistance is required to obtain a letter of invitation that could be used in a visa application.

Researchers that are within daily commuting distance of the NHM and La Brea Tar Pits & Museum are not eligible for this award.

Researchers that have had proposals not funded are encouraged to resubmit, but an individual cannot receive more than one award within a three-year timeframe.

**Criteria**

Applicants are **required to contact the relevant curator and collections manager of the collections they wish to visit prior to submission** of their applications to confirm availability of collections and logistics regarding the use of museum facilities.

Applications should include information on: the objectives and significance of the proposed research; the relevance of NHM collections to the project; any collaboration with NHM curators (if applicable); and the methods used in the research. Both the quality of the proposed research as well as the project's feasibility will be evaluated. In addition, preference will be given to proposals that: **1)** demonstrate a critical role of NHM collections in the proposed research; and **2)** enhance the NHM collections (through identification, curation, transcription, annotation of records, generation of new data, etc.).

Any proposed research that involves digitization, molding & casting, and/or destructive sampling of NHM specimens, must meet the appropriate department's collections use criteria, and also be approved ahead of time by the appropriate curator and collections manager.

Awards are made in either partial or full support of travel, lodging, and incidental costs while visiting the NHM collections. Individual award amounts can vary, but typically range from $750–$1000, with a maximum of $1500. Reimbursement for housing is limited to a maximum of $250 per day.

Awards are made in the form of a check issued by the NHM to the awardee. Awardees are required to complete and submit a W-9 form (or W-8BEN for international awardees) prior to the distribution of funds. **Applicants should ensure that they provide a valid address where this check can be received.** Award funds can only be used **only for the awardee’s qualified travel, lodging, and meals/incidental expenses**. For awards greater than $600, the NHM is required to report these amounts to the IRS, and recipients are responsible for paying income taxes.

As part of the visit, awardees will be expected to give a brief, "brown-bag" style presentation/discussion for the relevant collections department related to their research. NHM R&C also maintains a Thursday R&C seminar series, and awardees are encouraged to present their research at this forum if their visit coincides with an open-date. In addition, **awardees are required to submit: 1) a one-paragraph biography; 2) one or more “headshots” or pictures of them working in collections; and 3) a short 1-page report describing their collections visit and research activities at the museum (reports can be submitted to Nathan Smith nsmith@nhm.org)**. Awardees are also encouraged to coordinate posts to social media about their collections visit and experience. This information will be kept on file, and used in museum-related outreach, e.g., the NHM R&C Newsletter. Any publications, conference abstracts, or similar products that utilize NHM collections as part of this award should acknowledge both the “NHMLAC Student Collections Study Award” funding and the relevant departmental collections and staff. Copies of publications/abstracts should be submitted to Nathan Smith ([nsmith@nhm.org](mailto:thayden@nhm.org)) and the appropriate curator and collections manager.

**Award Review and Notifications**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of Natural History Family of Museums curators and/or collections managers. Notification of award status can be expected approximately 1 month after each submission deadline.

**Application (1 of 3)**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Institutional Address:

Curriculum Vitae: (Please attach separately)

Undergraduate/Master’s/PhD student (circle one):

Current Faculty Advisor's Name and Email:

How did you learn about the SCS Award (circle all that apply):

EMAIL WEBSITE COLLEAGUE SOCIAL MEDIA OTHER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The following questions ask about your personal characteristics. Your answers will help us ensure we are serving and communicating with all of our community.*

With which racial or ethnic group(s) do you identify? (circle all that apply):

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino/a/x

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prefer not to say

What is your gender identity? (circle one)

Woman

Man

Non-binary

Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prefer not to say

Do you identify as LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, +)? (circle one):

Yes

No

Not sure or questioning

Prefer not to say

Do you have a permanent or temporary disability? (circle one):

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**Application (2 of 3)**

Project Title:

Proposed Dates of Visit:

Do you currently have additional funding for this project, and/or is this visit part of a larger trip (e.g., other collections or conferences)? If "yes" to either, please explain:

Proposed Specimens to Study (please be as detailed as possible, including specimen numbers):

Budget (MAXIMUM $1,500)

Lodging (MAXIMUM $250/night):

Transportation:

Meals/Incidentals:

Total:

**Application (3 of 3)**

Proposed Research (MAXMIMUM 1-page, single-spaced not including references or figures, 10pt or larger font describing the proposed work):

**Helpful Resources**

**Museum Links**

NHM homepage: <https://nhm.org/>

La Brea Tar Pits & Museum homepage: <https://tarpits.org/>

William S. Hart Ranch and Museum homepage: <https://hartmuseum.org/>

Research Collections: <http://www.nhm.org/site/research-collections>

**Travel**

The NHM is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. The La Brea Tar Pits & Museum is located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. The William S. Hart Ranch and Museum is located at 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall, CA 91321. The NHM is approximately 12 miles (~30 minutes by car) away, and the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum is approximately 11 miles (~30 minutes by car) away from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The William S. Hart Ranch and Museum is approximately 18 miles (~20 minutes by car) away from Bob Hope Airport (BUR). In addition to taxi/Über/Lyft, LAX is serviced by Metro Bus and Rail (typically >1hr to NHM or La Brea Tar Pits & Museum).

The Los Angeles Metro (<https://www.metro.net/>) connects the greater LA area, and the Expo Line (<http://www.nextbus.com/googleMap/?a=lametro-rail&r=806>) includes a stop at the NHM.

There are many hotels near the NHM, the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum, and the William S. Hart Ranch and Museum, as well as along the Expo Metro line that services the NHM. Hotels.com is a helpful webpage for searching for lodging near museums.

**Lodging - NHM**

Vagabond Inn Los Angeles-USC (800)-491-6126

A chain hotel within walking distance of the NHM. Room rates are around $110/night

<http://www.vagabondinn.com/california/vagabond-inn-los-angeles-at-usc.aspx>

3101 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90008

Millennium Biltmore Hotel (213-624-1011)

A historic, large hotel in downtown LA, and a short drive or metro ride (Expo line) from the NHM.

Room rates are around $175-$200/night

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/los-angeles/millennium-biltmore-hotel-los-angeles/>

506 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90071

O Hotel Los Angeles

A boutique hotel in downtown LA, and a short drive or metro ride (Expo line) from the NHM.

Room rates are around $175/night

<https://ohotelgroup.com/>

819 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Lodging - La Brea Tar Pits & Museum**

Park Plaza Lodge Hotel (323) 931-1501

A small hotel nearby the museum. Room rates are around $150-175/night

<http://www.parkplazalodgehotel.com/>

6001 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Wilshire Crest Hotel (323-936-5331)

A small hotel nearby the museum. Room rates are around $150-175/night <https://www.wilshirecresthotel.com/>

6301 Orange St., Los Angeles, CA 90048

Beverly Laurel Hotel

A small hotel nearby the museum. Room rates are around $125-175/night

https://beverly-laurel.hotel-rn.com/

8018 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048

**Lodging – William S. Hart Ranch and Museum**

La Quinta Inn & Suites Santa Clarita-Valencia (661) 286-1111

A chain hotel nearby the museum. Room rates are around $125-150/night

<http://www.laquintasantaclaritastevensonranch.com/>

25201 The Old Road, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381