DECADE Professional Development Award

DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience) aims to enhance the climate for equity and inclusion of doctoral students at UC Irvine. To accomplish this, the Graduate Division and UCI ADVANCE have partnered to deliver a multifaceted program that involves faculty, students, and administration in collaborative efforts to foster equity, access, and inclusion. To this end, the DECADE Professional Development Award will provide funds in support of attendance to conferences and events that offer professional development opportunities for students who demonstrate a commitment to inclusive excellence.

AWARDS

For the 2025-2026 academic year, virtual and face-to-face professional development events will be considered.

Awards of up to $500 are available to eligible MFA and doctoral students. Students may be awarded funding through this program only ONCE per year. Please note that the average award will be made in the $250 range and the award may only be used towards professional development events and expenses such as professional conferences, trainings, memberships, and webinars. Please note that this award will be disbursed as a fellowship and is considered taxable income. Consult with a tax professional on how to report this fellowship and any associated travel expenses on your tax return.

ELIGIBILITY
To be considered eligible for a DECADE Professional Development Award, students must:
- Be in good academic standing
- Travel cannot include states currently listed on AB 1887 Travel Prohibition to Certain States Using State Funding Source | UCOP
- Be enrolled full-time in a doctoral or MFA program at UCI at the time of application.
- Be actively participating in programmatic activities and/or initiatives that support inclusive excellence.
- Request for funding must be received by   June 5th, 2026.
- Retroactive funding will not be considered.

REVIEW CRITERIA
Final approval is provided by the DECADE Coordinator and is based on the following criteria:
- Completed application meets eligibility requirements
- Appropriateness of estimated budget and expenses to attend the professional development event.
- Abstract submitted to the conference, if applicable.
- Provide website links to professional conferences, trainings, memberships, or webinars that include dates, times, and costs.
- Support from student's research advisor, as demonstrated by approval signature on application form.
- Support from a DECADE Leadership Member (i.e. DECADE Mentor, Equity Advisor, DECADE Coordinator verifying participation in activities/initiatives that support inclusive excellence such as DECADE).

NOTE: Submit completed applications to **decade@uci.edu**

If you have additional questions regarding the DECADE Student Travel Award, please contact: **decade@uci.edu**

UCI Graduate Division

Student Information

Student Name:

Date:

Academic Program:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Event Information

Provide logistical information for the professional development event you would like to participate in.

Event Name:

Date(s) event is occurring:

Event Website Link:

Please respond to the following if you will be attending a conference:

Presenting Research: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Abstract submitted: ☐ Yes ☐ No   If no, Abstract Due Date:

Abstract accepted: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, Expected Date Abstract will be Accepted:

Faculty Advisor Approval

The faculty advisor approves of this student's intent to participate in the professional development event named above.

Faculty Advisor:

Faculty Advisor Printed Name

_____

Faculty Signature   Date

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| Requested Award Amount | Provide an estimated budget for all expenses you would like to be considered for reimbursement. (Total expenses may not exceed $500).

*Please note that you are not guaranteed the full amount of $500 for expenses. The award amount will range from $250 to $500.

*Only applications that include conference or membership links with dates, times, and costs will be considered. |
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☐ Registration Costs: $

☐ Membership Fees: $

☐ Other: $

Please list the purpose of this if applicable:

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: $

UCI Graduate Division

Rationale	Write a short rationale stating the main reason(s) for participating in the professional development event, including how the event will enhance your professional career:

Supporting Inclusive Excellence	Write a short statement of how you have been involved with programming/ initiatives that support inclusive excellence such as DECADE.

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