



FAQ for DSSGP

Category	Allowable?	Examples
Research supplies & reagents	✓ Yes	Viruses, assay kits, donor samples
Small equipment	✓ Yes	Cannula equipment, pumps
Research personnel	✓ Yes	RAs, specialized consultants
Participant compensation	✓ Yes	Survey payments, alcohol administration studies
Travel for training	✓ Yes	Visiting expert labs
Travel for dissemination	✓ Yes	RSA meeting attendance
Software directly for project	✓ Yes	MPlus license
Institutional overhead (F&A)	✗ No	Explicitly prohibited
Tuition or student fees	✗ No	Not allowable
General administrative staff	✗ No	Not allowable
Large capital equipment	✗ No	Not allowable
Office/general supplies	✗ No	Not allowable
Student Salary	⚠	Not Suggested (T32 trainees Prohibited)

1. Can students include salary in their justification of the budget narrative?

- While student salary is not prohibited, including it may make the budget appear less aligned with the program's emphasis on enabling specific research activities unless the salary request is **modest, tied to concrete project tasks**, and **well-justified as essential to completing the work**. If the primary need is to cover project-related expenses, it is generally stronger to direct the limited funds toward those items rather than salary.

2. Can students include travel, lodging and registration to the RSA Annual Meeting?

- Yes, lodging and other travel expenses may be built into the budget of the proposal. Students who receive funding will have their registration fee waived. Awardees remain eligible for RSA Student Travel Awards, which may further offset the costs of conference attendance.

3. Will I be required to present my findings?

- Yes, awardees are expected to present their findings (both poster and DSSGP oral session) at the RSA annual conference in the summer following completion of the 1-year award. Awardees are encouraged to apply for the Gordis Award in the year in which they present their findings.

4. Do I have to be a member of RSA to submit my application?

- a. No, however, awardees are expected to become student members of RSA.

5. What are the allowable costs under this grant?

- a. The allowable costs must stay within the amount of \$5,000 USD. However, applicants can justify extra costs in the budget narrative by sharing:
 - i. a sponsor is providing “match-funding”
 - ii. additional stipend to complete the project
 - iii. secured alternative funding to expand the study

6. Can I still apply for the DSSGP if my work is still under review?

- a. Yes, please still apply for the grant. Make it known in your Letter of Intent (LOI) that your work is still under review, and updates will be made in the system as long as it is within the window of submission. If you do not get approval from your institution in time to make the update, it will be at the discretion of the DSSGP Reviewers to accept or deny your application due to this lack of approval. RSA Executive Office can grant an extension if requested in writing to info@researchsocietyonalcocohol.org, but any changes made due to approval or lack thereof **after** the close of reviews will not be allowed nor shared with the reviewers.

7. If the \$5,000 may not be used for indirect costs, which types of expenses are considered allowable under this program?

- a. You must ensure your institution will not deduct indirect costs from the award (\$5,000) or ensure that the unit will absorb indirect costs. That means you cannot budget for general overhead or F&A charges. Instead, the funds should be used for **direct, project-specific costs**, such as supplies, data collection, travel for research or meetings, participant costs, etc., as long as each cost is directly attributable to the research and documented well.

What counts as indirect costs (and therefore *not allowed* to be charged against the \$5,000):

Based on general grants-cost principles (and RSA’s requirement), things that fall into indirect costs / F&A (Facilities & Administration) and thus would ***not*** be permissible include:

- General university administration, central services, or departmental overhead that cannot be tied specifically to this project.
- Utilities, building maintenance, general office services for the institution as a whole.
- Central institutional costs that benefit multiple projects rather than only this one.
- Institutional negotiated “overhead” rate charges.
- Broad administrative staff whose time cannot be documented as specifically allocated to this project.
- Equipment or software - large equipment purchases are restricted
- Student salary (T32 trainees prohibited)

The RSA statement effectively disallows charging overhead/indirect to the award. So, any cost that would normally be captured by your institution’s indirect cost rate or overhead account is off limits.

What *is* allowable (direct costs) under this program:

The award is for “support of the research project”.

The allowable costs included:

- Research supplies / consumables (samples from donors, assay reagents).

- Experimental work (mitochondrial respiration measures, microscopy).
- Travel / meeting attendance (lodging/travel to the annual RSA meeting).
- Participant compensation (if human subjects) or hiring a research assistant whose work is dedicated to the project (depending on institutional policy).
- Travel directly tied to the research project (fieldwork, data collection, collaborator visits) or dissemination (conference presentations).
- Publication costs (e.g., open access fees) or poster printing if tied to dissemination.
- Project-related survey/participant costs, data analysis software, reagents, lab supplies, etc.