GPSC Emergency Travel Fund
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do you require me to start my outbound travel within one week of purchasing my ticket?

This comes back to our mission. We want to help people who have unforeseen emergency travel. This is where we think that, with the budget we have, we can do the most good for our community.

2. Why do you require me to submit my application within three weeks of the beginning of my outbound travel?

We can distribute four grants per month. By giving you three weeks, we are giving you enough time to be present wherever you need to be while still having two application windows in which you can submit your application.

3. Are there limits to how many applications I can submit?

You may only submit one application per application window. If you applied and were not selected to receive a GPSC ETF Grant and you still meet all the eligibility requirements in the next application window, then you can re-submit that travel again in the second application window period. You may only receive two GPSC ETF Grants within a rolling 365-day period.

4. Can you help me understand how all of these dates and windows work?

See the table near the top of this page. If you are still unsure, send us an e-mail at gpscETF@duke.edu.

5. Can I get cash or check instead of a $200 charge card?

Unfortunately, we cannot issue cash or checks. We have an arrangement with Duke’s University Center Activities and Events (UCAE) to give out these funds in the form of a $200 charge card.

6. Can I get reimbursed before my travel?

We understand that last minute travel can be very expensive. To maintain the integrity of the fund and ensure that we can offer it to our community for years to come, we are requiring that you complete your outbound travel before submitting your application.
7. What happens if the application you randomly draw does not meet the eligibility requirements?

When we randomly select an application, we review that application (and that application only) for compliance with the requirements. If the application meets the requirements, then we will let everyone (including the winner) know the results. If the application does not meet the requirements, we discard that application and randomly select from the remaining applications. We continue this process until we get an application that meets all the criteria. If none meet the criteria, we return the grant to our accounts.

8. I have decided to rent a car and drive. Why won’t you reimburse this cost?

The spirit of this fund is to help those in our community whose budgets are unexpectedly stretched to the limit due to an emergency in their lives. Our research has indicated that plane tickets and train tickets are often much more expensive when purchased last minute compared to rental cars. Furthermore, it is much easier to ensure accountability with plane and train travel, and so we have excluded rental cars from the fund’s eligibility.

9. I have decided to buy a bus ticket. Why won’t you reimburse this cost?

For similar reasons as those provided in the rental car question above, bus fares are excluded from the fund’s eligibility.