

I am a second-year Ph.D. student in the School of Education. My concentration is in Research and Evaluation Methodology, and I am interested in classroom formative assessment. After spending three years designing and administering assessments as a high-school chemistry teacher, I came to CU Boulder to learn more about how assessments are designed.

Last year, I examined how a group of science teachers spoke about scientific knowledge during conversations in professional development meetings. This research was conducted as part of a sequence of courses I took in Qualitative Research Methods. My final project for those courses culminated in a research proposal to present a stand-alone paper at the 2015 annual meeting of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST). My proposal was accepted, and I intend to share my research with others in the research community. This conference will be the first time that I have ever presented my original work at a professional conference. It will also give me an opportunity to learn about new research related to assessment in science education. Lastly, I plan to use this time to network with other scholars.

In my field, presenting original peer-reviewed research is extremely important in order to access internship opportunities and be competitive in the market for academic employment. I hope to use this experience at NARST as a way to hone my presentation skills while gathering feedback from scholars about the quality of my work. This experience is crucial since I will need to revise my conference paper if I want to submit it for publication in the future. These activities will help me build my curriculum vitae (CV).

In addition to presenting my own work, I hope to use this opportunity to attend both NARST and the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). These conferences are held right after one another in the same city. NARST and AERA are two of the most important conferences for education researchers. Well-respected scholars regularly attend both conferences, and I hope to use this opportunity to attend talks given by experienced researchers in my field. These talks will introduce me to new trends in educational research.

Lastly, I intend to connect with other graduate students and experienced researchers at both NARST and AERA. Faculty and graduate students from CU Boulder do attend NARST, and I hope to strengthen CU Boulder's presence at this conference. I will present my paper in a session with scholars from the United States, Turkey, and Germany. In addition to presenting my research, I hope to use my session as a way to showcase the high-quality academic experience available to students at CU Boulder. I hope that networking in this way will provide additional academic and research opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the UGGS individual travel grant.