SOCIAL SCIENCES
DISSERTATION RESEARCH FUNDING WORKSHOP

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WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- Types of Awards
- Funding Opportunities
- Important Details
- Tips and Tricks
- Available Resources
- Q & A
1) **Pre-Dissertation**: Provides funding to students from the start of their graduate program thru the defense of their dissertation proposal.

2) **Dissertation Research**: Provides funding to students at the ABD stage through completion of their dissertation research.

3) **Dissertation Completion**: Provides funding to students during the actual writing process of the dissertation, once they have completed or are near completing their dissertation research.
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG)

- One to two years in duration
- Up to $20K (varies by program)
- Award made to academic institution
- Faculty advisor serves as Principal Investigator, graduate student as Co-PI
- US citizenship is not required
- Proposal deadlines once or twice per year

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)
NSF DDRIG EXPENSES ALLOWED

- Travel costs associated with conducting field research or visiting archives or special collections
- Data collection and survey costs
- Payments to subjects or informants
- Specialized research equipment or training
- Analysis and services not otherwise available
- Materials and supplies
- Partial living expenses for research away from the student’s home university
CURRENT NSF DDRIG PROGRAMS

- Archaeology
- Biological Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Decision, Risk & Management Sciences
- Economics
- Geography & Spatial Sciences
- Law & Social Sciences
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- Political Science
- Science of Science & Innovation Policy
- Science, Technology & Society
- Sociology
R36 Dissertation Award

- Up to two years in duration
- Funds student stipend plus additional expenses
- Award made to academic institution
- US citizenship is required

Drug Abuse Dissertation Research (PAR-13-182)
Mental Health Research Dissertation Grant to Enhance Work Diversity (PAR-15-181)
Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity (PAR-13-152)
National Institute of Justice Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

- 12 to 18 months in duration
- Up to $32K in funding
- US citizenship is not required
- For students conducting research on crime, violence and other criminal justice-related topics

http://nij.gov/funding/fellowships/graduate-research-fellowship/Pages/grf-sbs.aspx#before
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad

- 6 to 12 months in duration
- Funds travel and research expenses
- US citizenship is required
- For doctoral students who conduct research in other countries in modern foreign languages and area studies (excludes Western Europe)

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsddrap/index.html
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

- 9 to 12 months in duration
- $25K stipend plus travel expenses to national Ford Foundation fellows conference
- US citizenship is required
- Eligible fields of study include: Anthropology, Archaeology, Communications, Cultural Studies, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Urban & Regional Planning, and Women’s Studies

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/P GA_047959
Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship

- 9 to 12 months in duration
- Funding varies by research plan (average $20K)
- US citizenship is not required
- Funds research on non-US topics in the humanities and humanistic social sciences (Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, and others)

http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/view/idrf-fellowship/
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

- One year in duration
- Up to $38K in funding for stipend, university fees and research support plus participation in seminar on academic job market
- US citizenship is not required
- Funds research and writing by students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences (excludes Public Policy and Clinical Psychology)

http://www.acls.org/programs/dcf/
American Dissertation Fellowship

- One year in duration
- Up to $20K in funding
- US citizenship is required
- Open to women in all academic fields

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

Wenner-Gren Foundation Anthropology Dissertation Fieldwork Grants (up to $20K)
http://www.wennergren.org/programs/dissertation-fieldwork-grants

American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award (up to $5K)

Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies (up to $5K)
http://woodrow.org/fellowships/womens-studies/

American Association of Geographers Dissertation Fellowship (up to $1K)
http://www.aag.org/cs/grants/dissertation
Read the funding notice or program website very carefully for details regarding:

1) Eligibility
2) Topic fit
3) Required components
4) Budget
5) Review criteria
6) Deadline
7) Submission process
ELIGIBILITY

Make certain that you are allowed to apply:

- Do you need to be a US citizen?
- Is your academic discipline specifically mentioned or excluded?
- Are you required to have already attained ABD status at the time of application?
- Do you need to be a member of a professional organization?

If you’ve read everything and you’re still not sure, contact the funding organization.
TOPIC FIT

- Does your research topic overlap with the mission and interests of the funding organization?
- Have they funded anything related in the past?

Most websites provide a list of recent award recipients and sometimes abstracts. If you’re not sure, don’t be afraid to contact a program officer. Don’t cold call them. Write up a one-page overview of your research and send it to them by e-mail. They may be able to provide feedback on whether it is appropriate.
REQUIRED COMPONENTS (FOR NSF DDRIG)

- Cover Page
- Project Summary
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Biographical Sketches
- Collaborators & Other Affiliations
- Current & Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Data Management Plan
- Letter from Faculty Advisor
- Supplemental Documents
What are the most essential costs which will allow you to substantially improve your research? You typically have to justify each expense so don’t ask for anything that you can’t reasonably explain why it’s needed. Only include costs allowed by the program. Don’t under budget or over budget. For travel costs, refer to GSA and Dept. of State websites. In addition to direct costs, you should also request indirect (F&A) costs for the university, if allowed.
1) What is the potential to:
   a. Advance knowledge (Intellectual Merit)
   b. Benefit society (Broader Impact)

2) Do the proposed activities suggest creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?

3) Is the plan well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale?

4) How well qualified is the individual, team and organization to conduct the proposed activities?

5) Are there adequate resources available to carry out the proposed activities?
When is the proposal/application due?

Would it be better to wait until the next deadline?

The earlier you start preparing the better. If you wait until the last minute, you are more likely to leave out important things.

Establish a realistic timeline working backwards from the deadline. Give faculty notice if you’ll need recommendation letters from them.

Ask other students to review a draft of your proposal and provide constructive criticism.
Are you allowed to submit the proposal or does it have to be done by the university?

If ORS needs to do it, an internal *myGRANT* proposal may need to be routed for approval.

Do you need to create an account on an external system like FastLane or eRA Commons? Contact ORS Helpline for assistance.

Don’t wait until the final day to submit in case you have any technical issues.

Late submissions will normally only be accepted in very exceptional circumstances.
Try to obtain copies of funded proposals from past award recipients.

Don’t make assumptions about the background knowledge of reviewers.

Pay attention to instructions on fonts & margins.

Be aware that some fellowships do not allow you to accept funds from other sources at the same time.

Documentation of IRB approval may be required.

Contact UH Human Studies for guidance: https://www.hawaii.edu/researchcompliance/human-studies

Consider taking a research design and proposal writing course (ANTH 711).
RESOURCES

Pivot Funding Opportunity Database
https://pivot.cos.com/login

UHM Office of Graduate Education Website
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/fellowships-scholarships

ORS Grantseeker’s Handbook

On the Art of Writing Proposals
http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/the-art-of-writing-proposals/

Data Management Plan Tool
https://dmptool.org/
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For follow-up questions or assistance with proposals, contact the Social Sciences Grant Development Office: