Graduate Research Support Program

Program: The Research Support Program within the Department of Political Science offers awards to continuing graduate students for specific research-related activities that are tied to their professional development and progress toward the Ph.D. The department and the College of the Liberal Arts both have funds available to support student research. *College funds are specifically designated for dissertation related research, or for release time from teaching (TA) and research (RA) responsibilities; the College requires ABD status to award funds.* Funds from the Department of Political Science Research Support Program are available before students reach ABD status, although preference will be given to advanced/dissertation-related research. Note that these research support funds are separate from funds designated to support travel to summer statistics and language courses at other universities.

Number and Size of Awards: Several awards may be made each year. College awards are limited to $2000 or a course release; the department does not have a specific ceiling, but is likely to provide funding up to a similar or slightly higher level.

Eligibility: All currently enrolled students are eligible to apply. Students receiving partial funding in one award cycle may apply again in future cycles, even for the same project, but with a lower probability of success.

Deadlines: Application deadlines are October 1 and March 4.

Application Procedures:
1. For ABD Students: Apply for dissertation support through the College of the Liberal Arts.

    - Follow online application procedures for the *College Dissertation Support Competition*: http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/graduate-students/student-resources/funding-opportunities/rgso-dissertation-support-competition (deadlines are the same as the departmental deadlines of October 1 and March 4). *Applicants will automatically be considered for department funding after College funding decisions are made.*
    - If a research proposal requires more than the $2000 College limit (for example, it involves significant travel abroad), students should apply to the College for $2000 and submit a separate application to the department for the additional funds.

2. For non-ABD students: Apply directly to the department (materials should be submitted to the graduate staff assistant). Applications must include:

    - a brief (1 page) explanation of the research; and,
    - a budget outlining research expenses (with a justification if the rationale for the expenses is not obvious).

Review Process: The graduate studies committee reviews applications and selects award recipients.

Criteria for Award: The committee will consider a variety of criteria including:

    A. academic performance;
    B. student progress through the program;
    C. quality of proposed research;
    D. the necessity of support for research success;
    E. efforts to secure external research funds (if appropriate); and,

F. prior receipt of research support.

Use of Awarded Research Support Funds: Research support funds can be used for almost any research-related expenses at the dissertation or pre-dissertation stages. Typically, funds are provided for the following research-related expenses:

- Domestic or international travel to conduct fieldwork (e.g., travel to interview sites, archives, libraries). This work may be for preliminary research before a final proposal is approved.
- Photocopying or microfilming costs at archives or libraries.
- Purchase of a data set (with appropriate prior approval, see Graduate Coordinator, source material, or other essential data resources, including specialized texts unavailable at Penn State or through inter-library loan.
- Phone, postage, and/or printing expenses (e.g., mailing expenses to conduct a pilot survey).
- Attendance at a specialized training program.
- Payments to research subjects (must have IRB approval with an IRB # assigned)

Applicants may request (with justification) support for expenses not listed above.

Department research support funds may not be used for release time from teaching (TA) and research (RA) responsibilities.

Any graduate student or employee must register per the Travel Safety Network (travel registry) process, found at: https://tsn.psu.edu/. **This is for __anyone__ traveling anywhere outside the Continental US, regardless of location**

If traveling to a "restricted" destination, review the University Restricted Travel website:
https://global.psu.edu/category/university-restricted-travel

Directions: Complete this application and submit the application along with the materials listed below to the Graduate Program Coordinator.

- A brief (1 page) explanation of the research.
- A budget outlining research expenses (with a justification if the rationale for the expenses is not obvious).

Name: _____

Title of Research Project: _____

Advisor: _____

                         Print Name   **Signature**

Other research support:

Have you applied elsewhere for funding? If yes, please explain. _____

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