

**Department of Political Science**  
**Penn State University**  
**Summer Graduate Research Award**

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**Program:** The Summer Graduate Research Award within the Department of Political Science provides summer support to continuing students so that they can work with faculty collaborators on research leading to a jointly or student-authored publication. The award pays a summer stipend; the sole duties of the students receiving the awards will be those tasks required for the proposal research project.

**Eligibility:** All currently enrolled students are eligible except first year students.

**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2026

**Application Procedure:** Submit the following items to the Graduate Program Coordinator:

- A joint proposal from the faculty member and the student (not to exceed two pages). The proposal should include a description of the research project and its current status; an explanation of the tasks the faculty member and the student will perform; a timeline for the summer and for the project as a whole; and, an estimate of when a manuscript will be submitted for potential publication.
- Student CV
- A working copy of the student's transcript

**Number and size of awards:** We anticipate making a small number of awards in the amount of \$4500 each.

**Decision process:** The graduate studies committee will select award recipients before the end of the spring semester.

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

- likelihood of the project being at or near completion by the end of the summer;
- the quality of the proposed research and its potential for publication;
- the centrality of the project to the student's program of study;
- success at completing independent and/or joint research projects and submitting them for potential publication; and,
- student's progress through the program.

**Deliverable:** Winners of the award are expected to (a) provide an early-summer (by June 15) update to the Director of Graduate Studies about the project's progress and (b) present to the Director of Graduate Studies the paper resulting from the project by September 30, 2023.

**Note:** The award is not intended to support research for a student's MA or PhD thesis.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please read the following statements:**

☐ **By checking this box, you are confirming the summer graduate research award will be your primary summer responsibility (you will not dedicate additional hours to another position or attend ICPSR or other summer programs). If you have other responsibilities, not on the list above and still want to apply for this award, please include the details in your proposal.**

☐ **By checking this box, you are confirming that the above paper is not (a) your M.A. thesis or (b) a chapter of your dissertation.**