GRANTS: Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students and Valuable Grant Writing TIPS and Resources

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Today's Session

- **Mission and Services of ORSP**

- **Identifying and Locating Funding**
  - Why students should apply for external funding
  - Funding research tools
  - Types of student funding opportunities
  - Examples of student funding opportunities

- **Valuable Grant Writing Tips**

ORSP Mission Statement

www.montclair.edu/ORSP

❑ Encourage and support MSU faculty and staff members pursuing research grants or state/federal funding.

    ❑ Help faculty and staff identify grant opportunities, interpret agency guidelines, develop budgets, complete application requirements and prepare competitive proposals.

    ❑ Help faculty and staff manage their grants by providing financial information, interpreting agency requirements, and understand university personnel and procurement regulations.

Definitions

- **Research:** a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

- **Grant:** Financial assistance provided to complete a project, generally with a public purpose, need or "public good" in mind.

- **Fellowship:** Competitive, merit-based awards that fund graduate or scholarly study.

Why Students Should Apply for Funding?

- ☐ Fund research or programmatic/creative activities

- ☐ Fund travel to professional conferences

- ☐ Prepare for future research or programmatic/creative endeavors

- ☐ Fund further education

Identifying and Locating Funding

Funding Research Tools:
MSU's Subscription Search Engines

- **Pivot –** http://cos.pivot.com

  - extensive searchable database of public and private funding opportunities, as well as faculty profiles.

  - curated list for graduate opportunities: http://pivot.cos.com/curated_opps/823

- **Grant Advisor Plus** - http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus/

  - includes private and public funding opportunities organized by subject categories as well as a searchable database, as well as information on individual fellowships.

More Funding Research Tools:

☐ **Grants.gov: http://www.grants.gov/**

    ☐ A federally central storehouse for information where applicants can locate and apply for federal grants on over 1,000 programs.

☐ **Foundation Center: http://foundationcenter.org/**
    ❑ Source for private funding, educational resources
    ❑ Foundation Grants to Individuals ($19.95/mo): http://gtionline.foundationcenter.org/

☐ **Professional Association Websites**

Graduate Funding Opportunities

- **Student Funding Lists**
  - http://mcnairscholars.com/funding/
  - http://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-us-student-program
  - http://fedmoney.org/

- **Searchable Databases**
  - [Cornell Fellowships Database](#)
  - [UC Berkeley Guide to Extramural Fellowships](#)

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowships Program

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201

☐ Three years of support for graduate study leading to a research-based master's or doctoral degree.

☐ For study in mathematical, physical, biological, and social sciences; engineering; science education; and in the history and philosophy of science.

☐ Stipend of $32,000 to the Fellow and a cost-of-education allowance of $12,000 to the degree-granting institution.

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

Metropolitan Museum of Art: Art History Fellowships

http://www.metmuseum.org/research/internships-and-fellowships/fellowships/art-history-fellowships

- The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers annual resident and travel fellowships in art history to qualified graduate students at the predoctoral level as well as to postdoctoral researchers. Projects should relate to the Museum's collection.

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

International Honors Society in Psychology: Graduate Research Grants

http://www.psichi.org/?page=gradresinfo

- ☐ Defrays cost of graduate research projects.

- ☐ Can request up to $1,500.

- ☐ Eligible applicants must serve as project director, membership in PSI CHI, and have at least one faculty member serve as a co-investigator and oversee the project.

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans

http://www.pdsoros.org/overview/

☐ Supports the graduate educations of 30 New Americans – permanent residents or naturalized citizens if born abroad; otherwise children of naturalized citizen parents – each year.

☐ Each fellow receives tuition and living expenses.

☐ Fellows can study in any degree-granting program in any field at any university in the United States.

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

http://www.hsf.net/en/scholarships/programs/

- ☐ Provides financial resources to outstanding Latino graduate students enrolled in a graduate program

- ☐ Award amounts generally range from $1,000 to $5,000.

- ☐ Have a minimum (GPA) of **3.0** on a 4.0 scale

Examples of Student Funding Opportunities

Fulbright Scholars Program: **http://www.cies.org/**

Flagship international **educational exchange program** sponsored by the U.S. government designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and people of other countries."

- **Fulbright U.S. Student Program**: offers fellowships for U.S. graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to **study abroad for one academic year.**

- The Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships (ETA) Program: element of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, places U.S. students as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas. ETAs may also pursue individual study/research plans in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

Valuable Grant Writing Tips

Tips for Student Applicants

- **Know your grant agency**
  - Look at an <u>agency's calls for proposals</u> or guidelines to see what its funding priorities are for the year.
  - Call the program officer or appropriate grant representative to confirm that you and your project qualify.

- **Think, talk, write, reread, rewrite, repeat**
  - Discuss your proposal with as many people as possible before you start writing to ensure that you have a solid experimental design.
  - Have many different types of people (peers, mentors, family members) review your entire application proposal.

Tips for Student Applicants

- ## Talk to your advisers and peers
  - They write their own grants and have most likely overseen other students' proposals.
  - Think about organizing weekly or monthly meetings with a group of peers to review each other's work.
  - Some universities keep successful student-grant proposals on file that you can use for reference.

- ## Start the application months early
  - Plan to spent 1-2 months preparing your proposals for submission
  - Don't wait until 5 minutes before the deadline to submit your application.

Tips for Student Applicants

- **Don't save the hardest bits of the application for last**
  - Read the project summaries of successful grant recipients; many of those summaries are posted online by grant agencies for reference.
  - If you are confused as to what really counts in a certain section talk to your advisers or other students who have had proposals accepted.
  - If all else fails, call the grant agency and ask!

Tips for Student Applicants

- **Emphasize your most important points in a bold, concise, and logical way**
  - Reviewers have a short amount of time to read multiple applications. Consider using bulleted lists instead of long narratives, especially in your research statement.

- **Don't take rejection too seriously**
  - Every successful awardee has had grant proposals turned away.
  - Take the reviewers' comments to heart and talk to an appropriate program officer regarding resubmission, or try another funder.

ORSP Website

www.montclair.edu/ORSP

❑ Description of ORSP Procedures

❑ Budget Templates, Forms & Guidelines

❑ Institutional Information

❑ Information to Prepare Competitive Proposals

❑ Post-Award Information

❑ Compliance Policies

❑ Internal Award Information