Research grants opportunities and applications.

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General Advice I

• Decide whether grant is to support research or teaching. Sometimes innovation in teaching techniques can be supported under research grants;

• Need for precision- leave out vague statements. Make your application state WHAT you will do, WHEN you will do it, HOW you will know if you are successful, and WHO is involved;
  • Be clear about the timetable involved: how will the project develop? When do you begin to start reporting results? Many grant applications require you to include a

• Do NOT submit on the deadline- try to submit at least two weeks in advance.
General Advice II

• Make sure you are up to date with the cutting-edge research in your field - scour journals and contact authors. This may also be a good way to find co-researchers. Sometimes agencies like collaborative projects between research institutions and LACs.
  • If possible, do prior research as a proof of concept.

• Budget reasonably - some grants will cover summer salary or salary replacement for sabbaticals. Be clear in what you are requesting in terms of funding.
  • Give a reasonable estimation of how long it will take you to complete goals.
General Advice III

• It may help to contact the program officer. Begin by broadly describing your project and ask:
  • Does this project fall within your current priorities?
  • What is your budget for this year?
  • What are the most common mistakes you see in grant applications?
  • Would you review my/our pre-proposal if we get it to you early?
  • Would you recommend a previous proposal for style?

• If you are funded, make sure to offer to serve as a reviewer for future funding.
General Advice IV

• Most granting organizations have a mission or statement of objectives. Make sure your grant meets with those objectives.
  • Good advice is to research what the granting agency has funded before and make mention of this in your proposal.
  • Most grant agencies will post work they have funded on their website.

• Meet every item granting agency asks for. Sometimes diagrams help express your level of organization and preparedness.
  • Gantt Chart (www.gantter.com)
  • Dissemination: journals, conferences, website
General Advice V

• Try and highlight the suitability of Muskingum for the grant: what is it about us that means the grant is well employed here and not elsewhere (e.g. Plus).

• If you are funded, try and stay in touch with the organization beyond the grant.
  • E.g. You could offer to serve as a grant reviewer on future applications.

• If you are not funded, use the reviews (including negative comments) to revise and resubmit.
  • Your chances of funding increase with every resubmission.
  • For NSF at least, the number of submissions is unlimited.
Funding Agencies

• National Science Foundation (NSF);
• National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH);
• National Institutes of Health (NIH);
• Minerva Initiative;
• Fulbright Organization;
• Seed funding organizations & private donors.
National Science Foundation

• Basic scientific research (http://www.nsf.gov/).
  • Funding opportunities can be identified by discipline or specific proposals (dear colleague letters);
  • Find recently funded research on your area;

• Application is judged on two criteria: intellectual merit and broader impacts.
  • Intellectual merit: potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge & understanding, or develop transformational concepts;
  • Broader impacts: benefits accruing to society; requirements for diversity and inclusion of minority groups (especially good for MU).
Other things to consider for NSF

• Particular strengths of the institution that suit it for the proposal;
• Preliminary research is very important to obtaining funding;
  • Reference prior NSF grants/ support.
• Many projects that receive funding are collaborative enterprises that bring together colleagues from different institutions;
• Timeline for grant activities;
• One should include a means of assessing the success of the grant activities.
• Have a colleague look over your proposal.
Evaluation of Proposals

• Committee in DC evaluates all proposals on the two criteria mentioned already as:
  • Outstanding;
  • Excellent;
  • Very Good;
  • Good;
  • Poor.
The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers.

NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and to individual scholars. The grants:

- strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges
- facilitate research and original scholarship
- provide opportunities for lifelong learning
- preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources
- strengthen the institutional base of the humanities
Any successful project requires planning, development, implementation, and follow-through. Obtaining NIH funding for your research idea is no exception. The Grants Process Overview below provides an overview of the steps required for an application to proceed from application planning and submission through award and close out. Look to the related resources on each page for special guidance from NIH experts that can help maximize your understanding of the grants process and help you submit a successful grant application.
Minerva Initiative
(http://minerva.dtic.mil/index.html)

• Research related to national security (Department of Defense). The Minerva Initiative is a Department of Defense (DoD)-sponsored, university-based social science research initiative launched by the Secretary of Defense in 2008 focusing on areas of strategic importance to U.S. national security policy.

• **Leverage and focus** the resources of the Nation's top universities.

• Seek to **define and develop foundational knowledge about sources of present and future conflict** with an eye toward better understanding of the political trajectories of key regions of the world.

• Improve the ability of DoD to **develop cutting-edge social science research**, foreign area and interdisciplinary studies, that is developed and vetted by the best scholars in these fields.

• The Minerva Initiative brings together universities, research institutions, and individual scholars and supports interdisciplinary and cross-institutional projects addressing specific topic areas determined by the Secretary of Defense.
Fulbright Scholar Program

• Provides funding for teaching, research/teaching, and research awards (http://www.cies.org):
  • Best used as funding for a sabbatical as Fulbright does not like summer programs;
  • Watch for deadlines, usually annual;
  • Look for specific regions of the world, as well as general programs;
  • One-semester, two-semester, and flex options available;
  • Foreign language experience not a requirement for teaching awards.

• Some awards to bring foreign scholars to US institutions.
Other funding sources

• Benefunder - web-based crowdfunding option for research.

• State department councils for regional knowledge

• United States Institute of Peace