Graduate Research Funding: Funding Searches and Strategic Proposal Writing

BARBARA WALKER
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, AND FINE ARTS
OFFICE OF RESEARCH
Developing Your Research Plan

- Know prospective research in your field
- Start writing/discussing as soon as possible (float these ideas); don’t let proposal be the first time you address
Forms of funding

- **Fellowships**
  - Submitted by individual (you)
  - Funded to individual
  - One-size fits all payment to be used at your discretion (no itemized budget)
  - You manage your funds

- **Examples:**
  - NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
  - Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship Program
Forms of funding

- **Research Grants**
  - Submitted by institution (submitted via ORU/Office of Research)
  - Your advisor serves as PI in some cases
  - Funded to institution
  - Often requires detailed budget
  - ORU grants manager manages and monitors funds
  - Reporting required
  - Unexpended funds returned to funder

- **Examples:**
  - NSF Dissertation Improvement grant (DDIG)
  - UC Multi-Campus Research Programs (Pac Rim, UC Mexus, etc.)
  - Wenner-Gren
  - NIH
  - Spencer
  - SSRC
Finding Funding Sources
Steps in fund source seeking

- Find out who funds the work you admire
- Do electronic database and internet searches
  - Electronic searching (IRIS, COS, GRAPES, Grants.gov, etc – refer to handout)
  - Electronic distribution lists/Alert service (COS, grants.gov, NSF, Grad Div.)
- Narrow the list, determine feasible targets
- Research each funder thoroughly
COS

- Need to be searching from UCSB computer to access subscription
- Alerting service
COS is the leading global resource for hard-to-find information critical to scientific research and other projects across all disciplines. We aggregate valuable information so you spend less precious time and money searching for the information you need, leaving you more time and money for your projects.

**Find funding with COS Funding Opportunities**: search the world’s most comprehensive funding resource, with more than 25,000 records worth over $33 billion.

**Identify experts and collaborators with COS Expertise**: search among 500,000 profiles of researchers from 1,800 institutions throughout the world. Discover who’s doing what -- current research activity, funding received, publications, patents, new positions and more.

**Promote your research with a COS Profile**: showcase your research and expertise among researchers and scholars from universities, corporations and nonprofits in more than 170 countries. Use convenient tools to keep your CV updated and accessible.
COS Workbench

Manage Your Profile
Terms in bold may be out of date — please update as needed

- Contact Information
- Current Positions
- Headlines
- Qualifications
- Excerpts
- Other Expertise
- Future Research
- Industrial Relevance

Additional Terms
- Languages
- Membership
- Honors and Awards
- Previous Positions
- Patents
- Funding Received
- Publications
- Journals
- Books
- Chapters in Books
- Conference Proceedings
- Other Outputs

anything correct? Click to Verify

Export Your Profile
- Produce a CV
- Produce an NIH PHS 398 Form

Manage Your Account
- Change Your Username/Password
- Delete Profile
- Update PVE Preferences

Help
- University of California, Santa Barbara Liaison
- Whittier Winn

News & Tips
- New Limited Submission enhancement just released! Full details are available here
- Training is always available with RefWorks-COS live or recorded training webinars. View the options and schedule now at www.refworks-cos.com/training.

Your Saved Funding Searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Name</th>
<th>Run Search</th>
<th>Edit</th>
<th>Delete</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>Number of New Results Jan 09, 2011</th>
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Add a Search | Archives | Options

Your Tracked Funding Records
No Opportunities are currently being tracked

Your Profile
Your full COS profile may be searched and viewed only by COS Expertise subscribers. You may also share your profile with anyone you choose using your MyProfile view at http://myprofile.cos.com/beware.

Customize your MyProfile now
Search COS Funding Opportunities

The most comprehensive source of funding information available on the Web, with more than 25,000 records, representing over 400,000 funding opportunities, worth over $33 billion.

COS Search

View Funding Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities with Deadlines in the Next 6 Weeks
- Funding Opportunities by Sponsor

Learn about new COS Funding Opportunities Enhancements

New! COS User Training

This database is updated daily and was last updated on January 14, 2011.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
<th>Grant Title</th>
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<td>Kenyon College Dissertation Fellowship</td>
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<td>TOP Grants - Free Competition of the NWO Division for the Earth and Life Sciences (ALW)</td>
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<td>United States Department of Energy (DOE)</td>
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<td>Institute of Education (IE)</td>
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Research Each Funder

- **Goals:**
  - Learn the funder’s perspective / preferences / biases
  - Learn about the review process
  - Who are the reviewers, board, advisory committee?
  - See what has been funded (Past grantees and abstracts)
  - Sample Proposals
  - Determine if your project “fits”
Contacting a Program Officer

- **Goals:**
  - Submit concept paper for review and feedback ("one pager")
  - As for Sample Funded Proposal
  - Discuss reviewers comments on a rejected proposal

- Do not ask questions that you could have figured out by studying the agency’s website!
Strategic Proposal Writing
Timeline for preparing and submitting

- 3-6 mos. to prepare proposal
  - Circulate draft to advisors and specialist colleagues
  - Discuss proposal idea with program officer if possible
  - Write and re-write, put it away for awhile, and then come back to it again.
Human Subjects review

- Your duty as PI to obtain approval
- No funds will be released until all approvals in place
- Completion of online IRB training required
- Kathy Graham, Office of Research (graham@research, x3807) is the staff support to the Human Subjects Committee

**Your research will be invalidated** if you conduct any field work without having approval in place!
Most Common Errors

- Most Common Errors (less about writing and more about preparation!)
  - Inadequate time planning
  - Failure to follow directions
  - Bad fit between project and funder
Helpful Tips

- Read directions and follow them obsessively
- Plan and stick to timeline
- Write with reviewer and evaluation criteria in mind
- Good match between your idea and agency’s mission
- Understand the review process
- Clarity essential - both ideas and writing
- Certain amount of redundancy is good
- Guideposts along the way (e.g. headers, transition and summary sentences, numbering)
- White space, legible
Dealing with rejection

- It’s inevitable – rejection more common than success even for the most funded researchers!
- Accept it as part of the process
- Ask for reviewer comments whenever possible from agency (whether awarded or rejected)
- Value the reviewers’ comments and use them to make the project/research stronger
- Take responsibility for comments – don’t write off reviewer as biased, stupid, etc.
- If resubmitting, speak to Program Officer in regard to responding to comments
- Get advice from colleagues – ask them to read review comments (don’t go hide somewhere!)
- Practice is essential (exponential success curve)
- Revise and resubmit as appropriate
Good luck!