DISSERTATION SEED GRANT PROPOSALS

Departmental Seed Grants provide graduate students with funding to explore the feasibility of specific dissertation research projects and improve the student's chance of obtaining outside funding. Such funding would include application for an NSF dissertation improvement grant as an example. Appropriate activities covered by the seed grant might be an initial trip to a field site to obtain preliminary data, or establish working relationships and gain local permissions to conduct fieldwork. Funds might also be used to fund preliminary laboratory work within the department. Seed grants are not intended to be the sole source of graduate research funding, nor are they intended as supplements to outside funding.

Grant Limitations

Seed grant funding will be limited to a ceiling of $3000. Under extenuating circumstances a larger amount may be granted, although students are encouraged to request realistic sums to ensure study success. Grant proposals will be restricted to the subject of the eventual dissertation topic and region.

A letter written by the student's supervisory committee chair supporting the grant will accompany the grant.

Deadline for submission of the seed grant proposal will be the end of the 6th week of each semester.

Selection Process

Seed grant proposals will be vetted by a committee of three faculty members, each from a different disciplinary subfield of anthropology. In the case a student's dissertation advisor is a member of the committee, that member will be replaced for that meeting by another faculty member.

Criteria. Student eligibility for seed grants depends upon the student's timely completion of departmental requirements. Doctoral students' proposal will be given first priority. Students will be eligible to apply for seed grants during the semester they schedule their Masters exams, though funding will be contingent upon their acceptance into the Ph.D. program. Selection of proposals for seed-grant funding is based on a series of criteria.: 1) Intellectual merit/significance of the proposed study; 2) the feasibility of the proposed study, including previous ethnographic/physical knowledge of the target population, probability of obtaining local permissions and IBP approval; 3) demonstrated importance of seed grant funds in improving the larger project's likelihood of obtaining outside funding; and 4) the knowledge base of the student.

Post-Grant Requirements

Six months after returning from the field the student will file a progress report to the department chair and student's advisor, and submit a grant proposal to an appropriate granting agency. Failure to do so may result in sanctions, including ineligibility for subsequent funding.