

HOW TO FIND GRANTS AND WRITE SUCCESSFUL GRANT PROPOSALS

I. How to find appropriate grants

A. Think broadly about your topic:

1. Your time period
2. Your geographical region
3. Your conceptual framework
4. Your discipline

B. How to find grants

1. Ask other students and your professors
2. Check in professional journals. The PMLA lists them under "Professional Notes and Comments", and online for members of the MLA under "Professional Resources."
3. Scan the last few pages of each week's *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the online version, which has many useful links.
4. The last pages of the MLA Job List also has "Postdoctoral Listings."
5. <http://www.barnard.columbia.edu/grants>
6. <http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/humanities/grants.html>
7. Databases

Columbia University's GSAS Fellowship and Grant Database
Cornell University Graduate School Database

8. Books

Directory of Grants in the Humanities
A Casebook of Grant Proposals in the Humanities
Foundation Grants to Individuals
The Grants Register

II. **Writing effective proposals**

1. Determine the audience for your proposal (Often broader than your discipline.)
2. Selection committee read many proposals. (Beginning, especially first sentence, must be engaging and indicate the significance of your project.)
3. Read instructions carefully (especially the deadline and criteria of selection).
4. There should be a clear statement of the project.
5. There should be a clear statement of your methodology. Make your theoretical position clear.
6. There should be a clear statement of your timeline and it should be convincing.
7. There should be a clear statement of your outcomes (book, article) and these should fit the grant guidelines.
8. Make clear that this project is important. (This is the first study to....This is the only study to...) What is at stake in this study?
9. To whom is this study addressed?
10. Make clear why *you* are the best person to conduct this study. (It builds on earlier work. You have the tools and training to do it.)
11. Locate your project in terms of other scholarship and scholars. Position yourself in

the field

12. Include, if requested, a thoughtful and thorough bibliography that helps situate your project within a larger world of scholarship.
13. Prepare your budget realistically and make sure it follows the guidelines of the grant.
14. Read and re-read, edit and re-edit your proposal.
15. Then ask others to do the same.
16. Do not write the same proposal for all grants; adjust it for each grant.
17. Be persuasive; be passionate.
18. Make clear your superlative record
19. Apply to many grants to get one.

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