Identifying Funding Sources:
How to Search for Funding Opportunities for
Graduate Research and Study

Graduate Funding Information Center (GFIC)
The Graduate School at UNC

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Topics for Today

- Funding fundamentals
- Funding guides
- Funding databases
  - Carolina Internal Funding Database
  - COS Pivot
- Proposal writing help
  - Successful Proposals Collection
Funding Fundamentals

- START EARLY. Many (though not all) application cycles will have deadlines in the early fall or spring.
- Become familiar with major programs and sponsors in your field.
- Find out how people get funded in your department and what listservs you should join. (especially good for finding under-publicized opportunities)
- Research funders thoroughly before you apply.
- Trade up. Funders, especially for large national competitions, look favorably on applicants who have already competed successfully for smaller grants.

See Handout: Funding Basics: Fundamentals and Tips
Funding Resources

Funding Guides

General guides for graduate students, and Discipline- and population-specific funding lists available at http://grantsinfo.unc.edu/guides

Books

- *The Graduate School Funding Handbook* (Hamel, 2012)
- *Graduate Study for the Twenty-first Century: How to Build an Academic Career in the Humanities* (Semenza, 2010)
- *Financial Aid for ... series* (2012)

The Davis Library subject area librarians can help you find more books.
Funding Databases

**COS Pivot**

- Comprehensive, multi-disciplinary database containing thousands of funding opportunities
- Save searches, receive funding alerts by email

**Carolina Internal Funding Database**

- Contains about 300 funding opportunities sponsored or administered by UNC-Chapel Hill
- Most opportunities require applicants to be affiliated with UNC
- Click on “funding search” to filter opportunities by criteria. You can only search one field at a time, and running an empty search will retrieve everything in the database.
- View the dropdown list under “internal sponsor” to see which offices, departments, and centers you should contact.
Tips for searching COS Pivot

Always use **Advanced Search**. You can find instructions for using each field by expanding it and clicking the grey info icon.

- **Keywords**
  
  Brainstorm broad and specific keywords, approach your work from different perspectives, and try multiple combinations. When possible, use pivot’s predefined keywords instead of free text.

- **Applicant Type**
  
  Select graduate student and any other categories that apply.

- **Citizenship**
  
  International students can filter out scholarships requiring US citizenship by using the “exclude opportunities matching” option at the bottom of advanced search.

- **Funding type**
  
  For graduate students, usually “Dissertation or Thesis,” “Prize or Award,” “Research,” “Training, Scholarship, or Fellowship,” and “Travel.” Others as appropriate.
More Pivot Tips

- **Create an account** (free with your unc email address) to save searches and manage alerts. Saved searches will notify you when that search retrieves new opportunities.

- **Fill out your profile information** to allow pivot to recommend opportunities for you.

- **Notice which predefined keywords** appear on good matches and run searches using them.

- **Visit ProQuest Pivot’s Youtube Channel** to watch tutorial videos on how to use the site. [https://www.youtube.com/user/ProQuestPivot](https://www.youtube.com/user/ProQuestPivot)

See Handout: Searching COS Pivot
Proposal Writing Resources

Successful Proposals Collection

- Database of Carolina graduate students’ successful applications
- Look for examples where students establish a sincere, enthusiastic tone; supply appropriate detail; and appeal to funders without pandering.

Other Proposal Writing Guidelines:

- Grant Writing Tips for Graduate Students (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- Grant Proposals (or Give me the money!) (UNC Writing Center)
- Art of Writing Proposals (Social Sciences Research Council)
- Personal Statements and Essays (WPI)

More guides at [http://grantsinfo.unc.edu/proposal-writing](http://grantsinfo.unc.edu/proposal-writing)
Other Resources of Interest

**National Science Foundation**
- contact Sohini Sengupta at the Center for Faculty Excellence (sengups@unc.edu)

**NC Openbook**
- For government grants in North Carolina

**NIH, NSF, EPA**
- all have specific proposal writing guidelines published by the organization.

**NY Foundation for the Arts Source**
- funding for performance, literature, and Folklore

**Funding from the Graduate School**
- Be aware of the opportunities (and their deadlines) that you can get from UNC.
Thank You!

- Start early
- Think broadly
- Work your resources
- Gather information
- Strategize

Please take a moment to tell us how we did
www.gradfunding.web.unc.edu/survey/