NSF
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants for the Social Sciences

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(updated 8/25/2014)
Purpose

• for doctoral students

• to improve quality of dissertation research

• not meant to cover tuition or your time
Disciplines

- Archeology
- Bio/Cultural Anthropology
- Decision, Risk & Mgmt Sciences
- Economics
- Endangered Lang.
- Geography
- Law & Social Sciences
- Linguistics
- Methods, Measurement & Stats
- Political Science
- Science, Tech and Society
- Science of Science/Innovation Policy
- Sociology
Eligibility

• enrolled in a U.S. academic institution

• initiating or conducting dissertation research

• do not have to be a U.S. citizen
Timing

• deadlines vary, annual or bi-annual
• begin work on proposal six months ahead
• decision takes six months from submission
• award length varies, usually 1 to 2 years
what does it cover?

• budget limits vary by program ($10K - $20K)

• covers your research expenses
  » field research, data collection
  » payment to subjects
  » equipment
  » travel to archives, research locations
  » living expenses while away conducting research
  » supplies
  » money spent prior to award date is not reimbursable

• award is made to the institution, not you.
what makes you competitive?

- **Intellectual Merit**
  - the potential to advance and potentially transform the frontiers of knowledge, your field

- **Broader Impacts**
  - what is the potential societal benefit, how does it contribute to desired, societal outcomes
for both criteria, these questions apply:

- is the research creative, original, and potentially transformative?
- is the plan sufficiently developed, logical, well-reasoned?
- is the individual and team qualified to complete the plan?
- does the individual have (or request NSF to fund) sufficient resources to carry out the plan?
what’s required?

• Project Abstract (one page summary)
• Project Description (length varies, but about 15 pages, references are separate)
• Bios and Current Support statements for you and your PI
• Budget and Justification
• Facilities statement
• Data Management Plan
• Letter from Dept. Chair (sometimes)
how does it work?

• your advisor serves as PI, but gets no payment

• all work is to be completed by you

• if awarded, IPSR will help you spend the funds (make purchases, arrange travel, etc.)

• IPSR and KUCR will handle financial reporting

• any substantive progress reports required must be completed by you
example of funded project

• PhD student in Public Administration
• studying application of law to immigrants by local officials/agencies, through mixed methods (surveys and interviews)
• received funding to conduct interviews and visit archives
• funded through Law and Social Sciences section
• pilot study had been completed
• had a plan for (and experience doing) data analysis
how to get started

• read the solicitation for your specific program

• read NSF’s grant proposal guidelines

• discuss with your advisor, get approval to apply

• contact IPSR (ipsr_preaward@ku.edu)  
  (or alternative research center, or  
  Office of Research)
THANK YOU!