

NSF
Doctoral Dissertation Research
Improvement Grants
for the Social Sciences

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What is IPSR?

- Research center for social sciences & policy
- Home to eight research centers
 - » Center for Science, Tech. & Econ. Policy
 - » Center for the Study of Injustice
 - » Center for Environmental Policy
 - » Center for Research on Global Change
 - » Center for Indigenous Research, Sci. & Tech.
 - » Surveillance Studies Research Center
 - » Center for the Study of the U.S. Military
 - » Center for Migration Research
- Pre-award, post-award, data services, graduate research initiatives

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
- Others

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 up 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

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 KU Research will handle financial reporting
- any substantive progress reports required must be completed by you

What's required?

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

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, and 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?

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 solicitation or announcement 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
KU Research)

THANK YOU!

