Applying for Grants and Fellowships: Understanding the Process and How GradFund Can Help

Teresa M. Delcorso, Assistant Dean
GradFund, Graduate School - New Brunswick
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Since our founding in 2000, we have helped Rutgers graduate students win more than $40 Million in external grants and fellowships.

Our mission is to support graduate students with identifying and applying for extramural funding.

We provide comprehensive and current information on funding opportunities, perform outreach to graduate programs and work with students individually to develop their applications.

We work through an innovative peer-mentoring fellowship advising model.

Our Graduate Funding Mentoring Program helps graduate students integrate the process of applying for funding into their graduate careers.

We offer a robust collection of ground-breaking and expertly curated on-line resources.
THE GRADFUND TEAM

- Founding Director: Assistant Dean Teresa M. Delcorso
- Fellowship Advisors (2015-2016):
  - Ben Arenger, Spanish
  - Janna Ferguson, Political Science
  - Samantha Lee, Plant Biology
  - Carolyn Ureña, Comparative Literature
  - Kris White, Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
THE GRADFUND APPROACH
THE GRADFUND FELLOWSHIP ADVISING MODEL

- Graduate Program Director
- Faculty mentor (expert)
- Graduate student and their project
- GradFund Programs
- Assistant Dean Delcorso
- GradFund Fellowship Advisor (peer, non-expert)
GradFund works with graduate students to help them plan their funding applications and understand how the timeline for their graduate studies will intersect with the eligibility criteria and funding interests of different fellowships and grants.

Pre-application meetings and the Doctoral Fellowship Mentoring Program both help graduate students to plan to meet both their immediate funding needs, and to make long-term plans for funding applications.
We offer a range of services to support Rutgers graduate students throughout the fellowship and grant application process, from planning to submission.

**Individual Meetings**
Peer fellowship advisors work to help students identify and apply for merit-based awards and provide feedback on their application materials.

**Mentoring Programs**
Pioneered by GradFund in 2006, our summer mentoring programs provide students with structure and guidance through the application development process.

**Workshops & Presentations**
GradFund offers targeted information and guidance through graduate program and award specific presentations and workshops.
Peer fellowship advisors work to help students identify merit-based awards and provide feedback on their application materials

- **Pre-application meetings**: Help students answer the question “what can I apply for and how do I get started?”
- **Application review meetings**: Provide feedback and critique on application materials under development. We utilize a collaborative editing process to guide the student through revisions. We provide a technical read that provides feedback through the framework of best practices in grantsmanship and effective scholarly communication.
GRADFUND ONLINE RESOURCES:
http://gradfund.rutgers.edu

GRADFUND KNOWLEDGEBASE

Search for grants and fellowships, work with sample proposals and take advantage of GradFund expertise.
Our simple award search interface allows students to quickly find the results they are looking for.

**OUR AWARD SEARCH**

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**FIND FUNDING.**

Our database contains over 3800 awards from nearly 1900 funders. We go beyond listing awards to provide you with valuable intelligence and advice about these fellowships and grants. We are constantly working to update and expand our database, so check back frequently. New updates are uploaded every Friday.

How would you like to begin your search? You'll be able to refine your results, and save awards to your Award List on the next page.

- Type of Funding?
- Research Interest?
- Funder or Award?

Select the activity for which you are looking for funding

[Select Activity]

[Search]

Click here to use our advanced search.

Our simple award search interface allows students to quickly find the results they are looking for.
OUR AWARD SEARCH

Welcome, jannaf. Click here to logout

My Award List (7)

I am a Doctoral student.

My discipline is: Select Discipline and I am in the

Please Select Discipline First: graduate program.

I need support for the Select Stage: stage of my graduate career.

I am looking for an award that will provide Travel (International): support.

The region I want to travel to is Select Region: The country I want to travel to is

Please Select Region First: (optional).

I am: Select Citizenship:

I am interested in awards with deadlines in the next All days.

I am looking for awards that match the keyword:

Which funder or award would you like to view?

Select a Funder

Search

Our website is still under development. If you have any feedback or questions, please let us know!

Our advanced search guides students through a description of their funding needs to deliver results targeted to their goals, timeline, and interests.
GRADFUND ONLINE RESOURCES

Welcome to the Sakai site for the GradFund Graduate Funding Proposal Writing Tutorial!

We have developed for you a self-paced mentoring program to assist you in the development of a proposal for a funding application. This tutorial is designed to help you with the task of writing a competitive application and organizing all of its components.

By using this tutorial, you will learn the mechanics of proposal writing and best practices in grantsmanship while you develop an outline of your funding application, including the research proposal, supporting materials, and the application form(s). Although this tutorial is self-paced, we encourage you to set up a schedule to keep yourself on track. The program consists of 8 lessons, and you should schedule about a week to complete each one.

When you have completed the tutorial, you will have the first draft of your application materials and a good idea of how to assemble your funding application package. The more time you invest in crafting the essays detailed in this tutorial, the more advice and guidance we will be able to provide you. Providing ample time to work on your applications is one of the most important things you can do for yourself. Completing this tutorial will not accelerate the application development process but it will be a valuable time investment: competitive funding applications take time to write and rewrite.

We encourage you to complement the tutorial with individual meetings with a GradFund fellowship advisor. During an application review meeting, you will receive personalized feedback to help you target the goals of your particular funder, ensure that you are providing the appropriate tone and level of detail for your review audience, and improve clarity and organization of the application. You can schedule a meeting through our website.

This tutorial is designed for graduate students who have selected an award to apply for. If you would like to search for awards to support your graduate work, you can use our website to search for awards and schedule a pre-application meeting to discuss your options with a fellowship advisor. For more information about grants and fellowships, please visit our website, our blog GradFund Conversations, and the GradFund Knowledgebase for more information and insights into the proposal writing process.

If you have any questions or concerns as you work through the tutorial, please let us know. We look forward to working with you!

The GradFund Fellowship Advising Team

GRADFUND ONLINE TUTORIALS
Our structured, self-paced programs guide graduate students through the process of getting to know a funder, writing their application materials, and revising and working with feedback to create high-quality proposals.
Key Things To Know About The Application Process
What kinds of awards are there?

Grants vs. Fellowships

• Research Grants
  – Support for research related expenses

• Fellowships
  – Stipends
What Kinds of Funders Exist?

• Governmental organizations
• Private organizations

Grants vs Fellowships

• Research Grants
  – Support for research related expenses
• Fellowships
  – Stipends

What are Different Funders About?

• Discipline specific
• Interdisciplinary focus
• A specific topic or theme
• A particular activity
• Stage of scholarship
The Application Cycle

• Most fellowship and grant competitions for graduate students have deadlines from September through March.
• It can take 3-6 months for a funder to review your application, make a decision and notify you of the results.
• Once you are notified that you have won an award, it may take another 1-3 months before you can activate the award.