

Exceptional Graduate Student Support Scholarship

The Department is pleased to announce that we will accept applications for the Exceptional Graduate Student Support Scholarship for UO Political Science PhD students. This scholarship may provide up to \$3,000 toward activities that develop skills that are strongly necessary for their dissertation work. This is not funding for normal dissertation research. It is exceptional support for a discrete activity to develop specific skills that are necessary for the student to succeed with their dissertation project. Examples might be language study which is not available at UO, advanced methodological training, or participation in a short course or workshop that is powerfully related to a dissertation project.

Applications may be submitted at any time, but generally should be submitted at least two months before the activity, with possible exceptions when opportunities arise more suddenly. Decisions on funding will be made by the Department Head in consultation with the Admissions & Awards committee. All such funding will be conditional on availability of funds budgeted for these scholarships, which may mean that applications at some points cannot be supported for lack of available funds. In some cases, we may offer partial funding. Awarded scholarships are applied to the student account, may impact other financial aid offers, and are taxable. Scholarship disbursement may be reduced if student account has a balance due.

Eligibility: UO Political Science PhD students in good standing may apply at any point after completing their second year in the program. This funding is aimed at students who have formulated dissertation projects, so will typically support those who have at least drafted a dissertation prospectus, but in some cases it may be possible to make a case for exceptional support to fund earlier skills acquisition for a student who already has a strong idea of the area of their future dissertation research. No student will be eligible for more than one Exceptional Graduate Student Support Scholarship while at UO.

Criteria:

- Successful applications will make a concrete and compelling case that the success of the dissertation research depends on development of specific skills from the specific funded activity.
- To make this connection persuasive, proposals must both offer a clear and compelling statement of the dissertation project/topic (as appropriate for the students' stage in the program) and a clear and compelling case for how the proposed activity is necessary to it.
- Successful applications will receive a very strong statement of support from dissertation chair or faculty mentor, addressing both the promise of the student's project/topic and the necessity of the proposed activity.
- Funding for even the strongest applications will be conditional on availability of funds.

Application Procedure:

- Student should consult dissertation chair or faculty mentor and request that they submit a statement of support to the Graduate Coordinator
- Students should submit the following to the Graduate Coordinator:
 - CV
 - A proposal, no more than 500 words, that describes the dissertation, the activity, and spells out very directly why skills gained from the activity are strongly necessary for dissertation work.
 - A simple budget
 - Name of dissertation chair or faculty mentor who will provide statement of support
- The Graduate Coordinator will:
 - Ensure receipt of the supporting statement from the dissertation chair or faculty mentor
 - Confirm that the student is in good standing
 - Provide materials to the Department Head and Admissions & Awards Committee
 - Include information on standing and progress in the program
- The Department Head will
 - Review available budget
 - Consult the Admissions & Awards Committee
 - Aim to respond to the application within two weeks of receipt