

**Department of Political Science  
Penn State University**

**Program in Comparative Politics  
Graduate Research Award for International Travel & Research**

**Program:** This Research Award provides summer support to continuing graduate students majoring in Comparative Politics so that they can enhance their dissertation and publication record. The funds can be used for original data collection, field research outside of the United States, language study, or attendance at international conferences (where such applications are not funded by Conference Travel Grants or do not provide enough funds to allow the student to attend the conference). Students who are not yet ABD are encouraged to apply for the funds particularly where initial field work will lead to a stronger dissertation prospectus. The award may pay summer wages or travel expenses. When the student has received summer money, the sole duties of the students receiving the awards will be those tasks required for the research projects in question. These tasks should represent the student's primary responsibilities during the period for which the student has been funded.

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**Eligibility:** All currently enrolled students for whom comparative politics is their first (Major) field are eligible.

**Application Deadlines:** *October 1, 2015 and Monday, March 21, 2016.*

**Application Procedure:** Submit the following items to the Graduate Program Coordinator.

**For research awards:**

1. A proposal from the student (not to exceed five pages, double-spaced, 12-point, 1 inch margins). The proposal should include a description of the research project and its current status; an explanation of exactly how the research grant will enhance the student's research agenda; a work plan and schedule for any time that is to be funded. For ABDs, an estimated time plan for the dissertation/research project indicating when a manuscript will be submitted for potential publication.
2. A copy of the student's CV (including past conference presentations, manuscript submissions, and publications)
3. A working copy of the student's transcript
4. For students at the ABD stage, a list of the institutions and individuals the student will be connected with in the host country/countries, and a copy of correspondence indicating their willingness to cooperate. For pre-ABD students planning to do preliminary research, list of potential institutions and individuals with whom the student plans to connect and evidence of correspondence between the student and the individuals or institutions.
5. A budget.

**For travel to international conferences:**

1. An abstract of the paper or poster and a brief (less than 1 page); a description of the work that has been completed to date (e.g., draft or finalized text, output from data analysis); and a timetable for the work that needs to be completed

2. A copy of the student's CV (which must include past conference presentations, manuscript submissions, and publications)
3. A working copy of the student's transcript
4. A brief (less than a page) description of why attendance at this particular conference will enhance the student's professional networks and visibility
5. A budget.

**For language study (Note: preference will be given to students planning to study language outside the U.S.):**

1. A description of student's research agenda, and of the language program and institution where the student plans to study; plus a description of how the program/courses the student plans to enroll in will advance the student's research agenda.
2. A current c.v. (including past conference presentations, manuscript submissions, and publications)
3. A working copy of the student's transcript.
4. A plan of study and schedule/dates for participation in the language program
5. A budget.

For all three types of awards, the student's faculty advisor will also be asked to submit a brief evaluation of the proposal.

**Number and size of awards:** We anticipate making a number of awards ranging in amounts up to \$3000 each.

**Decision process:** Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee.

**Criteria for awards:**

- The centrality of the project to the student's program of study, and especially to the dissertation
- Degree to which the award will enhance the student's research, job market prospects, and professional visibility
- Student progress through the program or previous record of success at completing independent research projects and submitting them for potential publication