



# APSA DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT

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Application Due June 15, 2024



# DDRIG Overview

- NSF-sponsored program to support dissertation-related research expenses (such as fieldwork, surveys, software, etc.)
- Student submits the grant application (working with their adviser & grant officer), with funds disbursed through their institution
- Will give approximately 20-25 awards of \$10,000-\$15,000 each
- Professional development (workshops, travel grant, APSA reception)
- Deadline: June 15, 2024

# Eligibility

- Graduate students enrolled at a U.S. university (**no citizenship requirement**)
- At the point of completing dissertation research (ABD: advanced to candidacy but not yet completed dissertation)
- Projects must be empirically-oriented basic research taking any methodological approaches and substantive focuses that fall within the broad categories of citizenship, government, and politics
- 1 or 2-year grants, with no-cost extensions considered

# Types of Projects Supported

- Travel to conduct research at field sites, archives, specialized collections, and/or facilities away from the student's campus
- Data-collection activities including conducting surveys, experiments, interviews, or focus groups
- Costs for equipment necessary to conduct the research
- Costs to hire research assistants
- Costs for data transcription or translation (AI processing may not be secure; check terms and conditions / with IRB)

# Application Materials

- Proposal summary
- **Project description and research plan**
- Disclosure of other sources of financial support
- Professional development plan
- **Budget and budget justification**
- **Data management plan**
- Letter of support for dissertation adviser
- **Institutional support form**
- Research and professional ethics requirement (paragraph + IRB application sufficient; approval needed if winner)

No CV/biographical  
sketch requirement

# Review Panels

- Review panel of 15-20 tenured political scientists at PhD-granting institutions meet over two rounds in late July / early August.
  - **Round 1:** 3 reviewers assigned to each application, balanced by region, topic, and methodological fit. Subfield panel meetings.
  - **Round 2:** Full reviewer panel to make final funding recommendations to the co-PIs.
- NSF Criteria:
  - **Intellectual Merit:** the project's potential to advance knowledge and understanding within political science or across fields.
  - **Broader Impact:** the project's potential to benefit society more broadly.

# Successful Applications

- Address the NSF-referenced review criteria explicitly.
  - **Intellectual Merit:** the project's potential to advance knowledge and understanding within political science or across fields.
  - **Broader Impact:** the project's potential to benefit society more broadly.
- Be clear and specific in your budget request; quotes, previous colleagues' costs, links to cost estimates demonstrate planning.
- Consider your audience (all political scientists).
- Focus on the impact of the grant on improving your project and our understanding of what you are researching.
- If you have done so, clearly explain any preliminary results and how the proposed activities will strengthen or extend your research.

# More Information

- Visit our website:  
<https://www.apsanet.org/PROGRAMS/Doctoral-Dissertation-Research-Improvement-Grants>
- Other APSA grant opportunities:  
<https://connect.apsanet.org/centennialcenter/>
- For more questions email Elizabeth or Meghan at  
[dissertations@apsanet.org](mailto:dissertations@apsanet.org)