

Finding Resources

Ask yourself: How long will it take you to conduct this research? Where will you do it? Field sites, libraries, archives?

Get Help: Use the Humanities Grant Development Office website to search opportunity links. Find research grant mentors who can advise you about how, where, and when to apply for research funding.

External research facilities: check to see if they have fellowship or travel funds available.

Researching at KU: Check with your department; professors with research grants; Research Centers; The Dean's Office; Graduate Studies Doctoral Student Research Fund; Hall Center Travel Awards; Graduate Student Fellowships; Graduate Summer Research Awards; Humanities Summer Graduate Internships; Fall Faculty Colloquium Graduate Student Participant.

Apply for Grants

Plan your timeline according to your research needs. Start at least a year out. What research and funding do you need? Find matching funder(s) and check eligibility.

Read grant guidelines and criteria, and follow them exactly (especially formatting!). Match language with your project; use their subheadings, and avoid jargon.

Learn style differences:

- Academic Writing: Lead up to argument, scholarly pursuit goal, past oriented, theme-centered, expository rhetoric, impersonal tone, individualistic, few length rules, specialized terms.
- Grant Writing: Begin with unique idea, agency/funder goals, future oriented, project-centered, persuasive rhetoric, personal tone, team-collaborative, strict length rules, accessible clear language. Proofread for errors.

Networking

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Listservs for your discipline
- Professional associations
- Social media, especially LinkedIn
- Meet people at conferences, get cards, and follow up
- Volunteer for community engagement

Managing Research Stress

- Plan 6 months to a year before grant deadlines
- Include research travel in your timeline
- Schedule research and writing time into your dissertation/thesis plan
- Stay in communication with your adviser/committee
- Start a research/dissertation writing support group
- Be willing to revise and resubmit grants

Who We Are

The Humanities Grant Development Office works to promote the development of successful grant and fellowship applications by KU humanities faculty members and graduate students.

Humanities Grant Development Office

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THE HUMANITIES

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUNDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

What is a research agenda? It's a plan and a focus on issues and ideas in a subject of your field. You cannot study everything within your discipline during your time in graduate school, so decide what to focus on now, and what to defer until later. Research agendas are not set in stone, however; they should naturally evolve over your lifetime as a researcher. From this research agenda, develop a plan of what you need to accomplish this research: where is the research, who are funding agencies, and when will you do this research.

—Justin Reedy and Madhavi Murty

Getting Started

Determine your goals: Long-term (thesis or dissertation) or short-term (conference paper, or journal article)

Talk with other graduate students with similar or related interests.

Talk with faculty members and your adviser. Ask them for reading lists and use them as resources to find which topics are over-studied and where current research is headed so you can contextualize your interests.

Read up on the literature in your field, as well as faculty syllabi. As you read, write down topic and research ideas. Begin to form a research agenda out of your growing knowledge of the field.

Identify key scholars relevant to your interests and follow their new publications as well as other researchers who cite them. Use their citations to follow up on additional sources.

Become knowledgeable about new technologies as ways to share your research.

Join listservs and blogs that feature scholars whose work you admire.



Take Advantage of Course Work

Find courses that will help advance your specific knowledge as well as relevant methods.

Look at courses offered in other departments for classes that complement your research needs.

Use class assignments to advance your research agenda. If possible, use each class paper as a way to explore different aspects of your overall topic.

Strategically take courses with topics or research methods that can be incorporated into your overall research agenda.

Check out the curricula vitae of people in your field to see where they received grant or fellowship funding for their own research and writing.

Prepare to Discuss Your Research Project

Prepare a three-minute elevator speech you are ready to give at every department meeting, conference, workshop, or even running into faculty downtown or at a social function.

Create a 250-word abstract or a research statement that you can use for fellowship applications that explains in concise clear language (no jargon) your research goal.



Get Out There

Ask faculty and other graduate students about what conferences you should attend. Use conference paper deadlines to strategically plan your research goals. Present your work at conferences, listen to diverse ideas, and ask for feedback on your research.

Ask faculty members if they have research projects in which you can participate or recruit graduate student colleagues to work with you on projects. Find faculty who have grants to hire graduate students to help with the research.

Think strategically about publishing your research, even as a graduate student. You can often adapt class research papers into conference presentations or journal articles.

Attend talks and colloquia on campus—both inside and outside your department. Take advantage of the many seminars and colloquia at the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Stay current and informed with workshop topics and issues at national conferences in your field.