



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply for the Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants?

Eligible candidates must be a PhD candidate who has achieved “All But Dissertation” status (completed coursework and passed qualifying exams) toward a PhD in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, data science, or related fields.

In particular, we encourage the participation of researchers who are part of historically unrepresented or underrepresented groups in research communities.

Am I eligible to apply if I am not a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada?

Yes. Applicants do not have to be citizens or legal permanent residents of the US or Canada. However, you do need to currently reside in the US or Canada and be enrolled at a PhD granting institution in either country.

I am already conducting research on one of the eligible topics. Can I use this funding to extend my research and/or for write-up?

Yes. Applicants who are already conducting research on a topic that falls within the topics of the grant should discuss the progress already made and how a Data Fluencies Dissertation Grant would allow further progress.

Do I need to have IRB approval before I apply?

If the research project involves the participation of human beings as study subjects, please indicate if the project has already obtained approval from an institutional ethics committee (e.g., your university’s IRB) and provide a copy of the approval. If it has not yet been approved, please indicate when approval is expected and clearly indicate why you believe the research schedule is feasible within the time limits established for this grant. Please note that, if selected, the award cannot be paid until the project’s institutional ethics review approval is confirmed. If the research project does not involve the participation of human beings as study subjects, you should still answer the question pertaining to ethical considerations in the application, but you do not need to provide a copy of institutional ethics review approval.

What is the minimum length of research?

The grant supports a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months for research to be conducted between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, including writing a first draft of a public-facing essay to be submitted to [MediaWell](#) or [Just Tech](#). No grant will be awarded to projects with less than three months of research and writing left to finish the project.

Can I take time off during the grant period to take classes, teach or generally work?

Research funded by the Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants must be completed within a continuous period between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Although applicants do not need to dedicate themselves exclusively to the research project, projects that propose a schedule that is not compatible with this timeline will not be accepted.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND COMPONENTS

Do I need to complete the application all at once?

No. You may return to the application as many times as necessary until the application deadline. Be sure to save your work after you finish each section of the application. Once the application has been submitted, you will no longer be able to alter the information.

What documents must be submitted in the research proposal?

The proposal requires an application form and the following:

Research Proposal: In no more than five (5) single-space pages (not including selected bibliography), the project description must include:

- clear research questions
- the main theoretical and/or empirical contributions of your research
- a description of the data and methods to be used in the project, and why they are appropriate
- a brief description of any related project work done to date (noting any preliminary analysis informing the proposed research)
- brief public dissemination plan

CV: Provide a maximum 2-page curriculum vitae (CV). This abbreviated CV should identify your current and recent appointments, education, and most relevant scholarly activities that would inform reviewers about your capacity to accomplish the proposed activities, including related technical skills and research projects.

Budget: Please provide a one-page, itemized budget narrative.

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to):

- salary support or stipend
- tuition payment or reimbursement
- project-related travel (applicants should estimate transportation, lodging, and per diem)
- other associated research costs, including costs for data collection
- equipment (no more than 10% of the overall budget)

Research Schedule: Maximum one page timeline of activities.

Application Form:

- a brief, descriptive title and abstract written for a nonspecialist audience clearly explaining the project's principal focus, questions, and expected results
- statement of motivation
- ethical and privacy considerations

Are there formatting requirements for the research proposal and bibliography?

Yes. Your research proposal cannot exceed five (5) pages with single spacing. The selected bibliography cannot exceed three (3) pages with single spacing. For the bibliography, you may use whichever standardized citation style (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago) you prefer.

Are there formatting requirements for the CV?

No, but your CV cannot exceed two (2) pages. Your CV must detail your most relevant academic and/or professional experiences, including any publications and/or other projects related to the proposed research.

Is there a specific budget template I should use?

No, there is no specific budget template. However, your budget must detail how you plan to use your award in connection with your research.

Can I submit photographs or charts with my application?

Yes, but any nontextual material must be included within the five-page limit of your research proposal.

Do I need to submit reference letters, transcripts, and/or letters of affiliation with my application?

No. Do not submit any reference letters, transcripts, and/or letters of affiliation with your application.

Do I have to complete the application all at once?

You may work on the application in multiple sessions, though you will need to save your work after you finish each section of the application. Once you have submitted the application, you cannot work on it again. We recommend you have all application materials prepared before you begin the application process.

Do I need to answer all of the questions on the application form?

Yes. Only complete applications will be considered.

May I submit my application by fax or email?

No. Applications sent by fax or email will not be accepted. Applicants must use the SSRC's Online Application Portal to submit the necessary information.

How can I find out whether the program has received my application?

An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent automatically via email upon successful submission of the application. If you do not receive an automatic email confirmation within 24 hours of submitting your application, please contact datafluencies@ssrc.org. Please specify "Data Fluencies Dissertation Grant" in the subject line.

If I submit my application before the deadline, can I change it?

No alterations will be accepted after the application has been submitted.

SELECTION & REVIEW PROCESS

When will award announcements be made?

All applicants will be contacted about their status via email by June 2023.

What are the selection procedures?

All proposals are carefully reviewed by SSRC staff to ensure that the proposal meets basic eligibility requirements and that the application fulfills all submission requirements. Each application is then reviewed by a selection committee consisting of persons outside of SSRC who are knowledgeable in the particular fields, methods, or approaches relevant to the grant competition. Their review process will focus on the relevance to the research topic, quality and intellectual merit, potential for innovation, the fit between their research question and research design, and feasibility under current constraints on research. The selection committee, or some portion thereof, will meet to discuss proposals and their review, and produce a slate of recommendations for support.

How many awards will be offered?

Five dissertation grants will be awarded for up to US\$15,000.

What happens if my project is selected for funding?

You will be contacted by email and will receive instructions and documents for accepting the terms and conditions of your Data Fluencies Dissertation Grant award.

GRANT AWARDS

Are there any deliverables or reporting requirements for the Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants?

Yes. Grant recipients are required to contribute an original essay based on their research to either SSRC's MediaWell or Just Tech platforms. In addition, they are also required to submit a final report.

Will payment of the fellowship be made in a lump sum or spread out over the research period?

Payments will be disbursed as a lump sum after SSRC has received confirmation that the winners' projects have received IRB approval (if applicable) at their respective institutions.

Do awards go directly to the grant recipient or are they channeled through a university or institution?

All awards are paid directly to the grant recipient.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Who can I contact if I have questions about my fellowship application submission?

If you have a content-related question, contact datafluencies@ssrc.org. When possible, please provide the fellowship application reference number. If your question is related to technical support, contact communications@ssrc.org and copy datafluencies@ssrc.org. Please specify "Data Fluencies Dissertation Grant" in the subject line. We value all questions and will do our best to answer them as soon as possible. However, please allow up to 48 hours for a reply.