



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 or will soon achieve “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. ABD status must be achieved by June 1, 2024.

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 United States or Canada resident?

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. If it has not yet been approved, please indicate when approval is expected and 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.

Suppose the research project does not involve the participation of human beings as study subjects. In that case, you should still answer the question about 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 between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, including writing a first draft of a public-facing essay to be submitted to [MediaWell](#) or [Just Tech](#). Each grant will be awarded to projects with at least 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 work?

Research funded by the Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants must be completed continuously between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025. Although applicants do not need to dedicate themselves exclusively to the research project, projects that propose a schedule incompatible 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 often as necessary until the deadline. Be sure to save your work after you finish each section of the application. Once the application has been submitted, you can no longer 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 must be at most five (5) pages with single spacing. The selected bibliography must be at most three (3) pages with single spacing. For the bibliography, 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 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 must save your work after you finish each application section. Once you have applied, you cannot work on it again. We recommend you prepare all application materials 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?

Upon successfully submitting the application, an acknowledgment of receipt will be sent automatically via email. If you still await 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 AND REVIEW PROCESS

When will award announcements be made?

All applicants will be contacted about their status via email by June 2024.

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 of experts outside of SSRC knowledgeable in the particular fields, methods, or approaches relevant to the grant competition. Their review will focus on the relevance to the research topic, quality and intellectual merit, the 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. Please provide the fellowship application reference number.

Suppose your question concerns 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 immediately. However, please allow up to 48 hours for a reply.