2021 Graduate Student Summer Research Grant

Program Background and Description
The Institute of African American Research (IAAR) welcomes applications for the 2021 Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (GSSRG). Funds support graduate students who are conducting pilot or preliminary research toward a Master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation that concerns African Americans or the broader African diaspora. Grants will be awarded for up to $2000. We expect to make up to four awards.

Application Guidelines

1. Who can Apply?
Students must be working on a project that involves primary and original research explicitly focusing on African Americans or the broader African diaspora, excluding research focused exclusively on continental Africa.

Graduate students who are in good standing in Masters, doctoral and professional programs in any discipline are eligible to apply. Masters students must have completed one year of coursework and have at least one semester remaining in their degree program after summer 2021. Students enrolled in doctoral programs must have completed four semesters of graduate coursework by May 2021.

2. What are the requirements?
Research must be carried out between May-August 2021. In rare instances, the award can be approved for research conducted into fall 2021. Awardees whose research involves human participants must show approval for their project from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) before they would begin their summer study. Award recipients must give a talk in the 2021-2022 IAAR Graduate Student Colloquium.

3. What do the GSSRG funds cover?
Funds may be used to support research, which includes gathering data, information and materials for analysis or interpretation. Students may use GSSRG funds to pay for supplies that are unavailable at UNC, incentives for research participants and travel that are necessary to conduct research. The GSSRG does not fund research on continental Africa without significant attention to the broader diaspora. Funding also cannot be used for attending conferences, disseminating research, receiving research training, or coordinating working group activities. In rare cases, GSSRG funds can be used to support the dissemination of research to research participants and communities directly impacted by the study.

4. How do I apply?
To apply students should submit the following materials in one pdf document into iaar@unc.edu by October 15, 2020:

1. Curriculum Vitae, no longer then three pages and containing applicant contact information
2. 750-word proposal
3. A research budget and one paragraph budget justification [1]
4. One letter of recommendation from applicant’s advisor [2]

[1] Students who have not written a research budget or budget justification are encouraged to seek assistance from their advisors or other faculty member in their degree program before submitting their application. The strength of an application may be compromised by an inadequate or inappropriate budget.

[2] Letters of recommendation should confirm that the student is in good academic standing, address the merits of the student’s proposed research project, and attest that the advisor has reviewed the students’ proposal budget.

5. When is the deadline?
The deadline to apply for the research grant is October 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST
For questions, please contact Benita, Events and Programs Manager at blramsey@email.unc.edu.