CELSS Grants for Graduate Students’ Dissertations

The Columbia Experimental Laboratory in the Social Sciences (CELSS) provides funding to support PhD dissertation chapters that utilize experimental data. This call is targeted to studies conducted online. For in-person studies, please contact CELSS’ manager and director (celss-manager@columbia.edu and celss-director@columbia.edu). Such studies are severely restricted at the moment.

Eligibility
Applicants must be advanced doctoral students at Columbia in Economics, Political Science, SIPA, the Business School, Sociology or in a department affiliated with ISERP. The dissertation funds are restricted to doctoral students who have previously obtained a graduate student seed grant from CELSS and can demonstrate that the project has high probability of becoming part of their dissertations. In addition, the proposal must have been presented at a workshop or colloquium with some faculty presence (for example, in the Economics department: a field colloquium, CELSS Experimental Lunch, the Cognition and Decision Lab meeting, etc.).

Application
The deadline for responding to this call is January 22, 2021. Later applications may be considered on a rolling basis, depending on funds’ availability.

The application must include (separate documents in a compressed folder): (1) a cover letter, including the name of the workshop or colloquium where the proposal has been presented; (2) a paper or presentation slides summarizing the results from the initial CELSS grant; (3) the budget (i.e. a summary table with a clear description of how the available budget would be spent on participant payment, fees, etc.); (4) the applicant’s CV; (5) a statement detailing additional sources of funding for the project (successful, pending, and rejected applications); (6) the endorsement of the student’s thesis adviser.

The cover letter (maximum 2 pages) should outline briefly the basic rationale of the research, the question under study, and the experimental procedures. Please note that longer proposals will not be considered.

The maximum budget is $3,000. Applicants must show a good faith effort of obtaining funding from external sources. Exceptions to the $3,000 limit can be requested but must be strongly motivated, must be accompanied by proof of a standing outside application, and have low probability of acceptance.

The endorsement of the thesis adviser can be an email to the CELSS director (celss-director@columbia.edu). The adviser needs to state explicitly that he/she (1) is familiar with the work done so far, (2) is confident that the project can produce a high quality dissertation chapter; (3) will be responsible for following the progress of the project.

The applicant should submit the items mentioned above in electronic form in a single compressed folder, and send the application to the CELSS manager, at celss-manager@columbia.edu. The title of the e-mail should be “Application for CELSS Funding: Dissertations” and the name of the compressed folder should be “LastnameFirstname_CelssFundingApp”.

Note:
1. Unless part of a class, any experiment run on CELSS’ subject pool or with financial support from CELSS requires approval by the Institutional Review Board (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/irb/) and the respect of CELSS rules (https://celss.iserp.columbia.edu/research-projects/rules).
2. The funding allocation expires at the end of the second semester following the grant (here: May 2022). Unused funds will be reappropriated by CELSS.