

CELSS Grants for Graduate Students' Projects (Seed Grant)

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 doctoral students (2nd year or above) at Columbia in Economics, Political Science, SIPA, the Business School, Sociology, or in a department affiliated with ISERP.

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) the proposal; (2) the budget (i.e. a summary table with a clear description of how the available budget would be spent on participant payment, fees, etc.); (3) the applicant's CV; (4) the endorsement of a faculty advisor. Applications will be evaluated competitively by a committee of referees.

The proposal should outline briefly the basic rationale of the research, the question under study, the relevance of an experiment to the project, and the experimental procedures. Its maximum length is 1,500 words, excluding bibliography. Please note that longer proposals will not be considered.

The maximum budget is \$1,000. However, if the application concerns a brand new experimental project, it is strongly recommended to apply for a seed grant of \$500 or less for running a pilot experiment. Upon successful completion of the pilot, a summary of preliminary results and a new budget can be submitted requesting an additional \$500. The bulk of the budget should be payments to experimental subjects. Exceptions to the \$1,000 limit can be requested but must be strongly motivated and have low probability of acceptance. The committee retains the discretion to allocate fewer funds than requested.

The endorsement of a faculty advisor can be a short email to the CELSS director (celss-director@columbia.edu). The advisor needs to state explicitly that he/she 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" 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.

Requests for clarification

Questions concerning this call for proposal and the use of the lab can be addressed to the CELSS manager, at celss-manager@columbia.edu, or to the CELSS director at celss-director@columbia.edu.