Grants for Your Education: Undergraduate International Students

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This evening’s program

- Overview of Grants Collection
- Prep work – what to do BEFORE you look
- Resources for researching funding opportunities
- Hints on how to search for funding effectively
- Demonstration of funding databases

Pink handout: Presentation slides
Grants Information Collection

- Funding Information Network partner of the Foundation Center
- Library Collection (not a research service)
- Memorial Library Room 262 D/E
- Open all library hours
- Our web site: http://grants.library.wisc.edu
- Print & Online Resources
Multiple sources often necessary:

- Savings / Personal or Family Contributions
- Employment
- Student Loans
- Institutional Funding (On-campus scholarships, fellowships, & awards)
- Grants (Scholarships, Fellowships, & Awards – from outside the university)
What IS a grant?

- An award for which there is no expectation of repayment or services to be performed.
- A Gift of money (or something worth money) to be used for “charitable purposes.”

Types of Grants

- Fellowships
- Scholarships
- Travel
- Research
- Etc.

Note: Not all grantmakers read/follow the official definition of “grant types.”
Most important is: does a specific grantmaker allow you to use the money as you need?

Buff Handout: Glossary of Terms
Who Gives Grants?

- Educational Institutions
  - UW–Madison, UW–System...
- Foundations
  - Private, community, corporate
- Businesses
- U.S. Government–sponsored
  - Federal, state, local
- Associations & Societies
  - Rotary Club, Wilson Ornithological Society...
Grantseeking Process: Overview

Make time & plan ahead:
- Refine your project
- Research grants/funding opportunities
- Make contacts
- Collect references & documents
- Apply for funding (usually deadline driven)
Articulate Your Plan of Study/Research

- What is your major area of study or research?
- Will you study part-time? Full-time? For how long?
- Where do you plan to study?
- Where are you from?
- When will you need the funding?
- How does your plan or project fit into your overall goals?
Special Circumstances & Affiliations

- Geographic location
- Subject/academic discipline
- Special interests, talents, accomplishments
- Demographic characteristics
  - Gender, citizenship, ethnicity, race, single parent, returning student...
- School
- Employer
- Union
- Professional & trade associations
- Religious affiliations
- Community & civic organizations & clubs
- Military
Research: Common Interests

What they SAY versus what they DO!

- Who has an interest in your area of interest?
- Who funds in your geographic area?
  - Where you’re from
  - Where the activity will take place
- Who will provide the TYPE of support you need?
  - Undergraduate students?
  - Scholarships, Study Abroad, Tuition, etc.
- Who has given in the dollar range you need?
Where Should You Research?

- Fill out the **FAFSA** (Federal Student Aid) if you haven’t already
- Check with your school and/or department for institution-specific grants
  - Undergrads: [http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/](http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/)
- Print resources
- Online databases & directories
Helpful tutorials
Funding for International Students

- **COS Pivot**
  Offers up-to-date and complete descriptions private and federal funding sources. Great for grants outside of the sciences too! Video on COS COS Pivot does not work on Internet Explorer 8 in Memorial Library. To tag and track records, create a login (with your campus email address); then log in to pivot.cos.com with your wisc.edu email and password.

- **Foundation Grants to Individuals**
  Funding includes educational support, general welfare, arts and cultural support, awards, prizes, and grants by nomination. Available in Memorial Library only. Video on FGI

- **Grant Forward**
  Includes over 8,000 federal and private funding programs for researchers, scholars, faculty and students. Grant programs for institutions are included as well. Does NOT allow to specify by exact country of citizenship.

- **RSP Funding for Graduate Students**
  RSP (Reference Service Press) Funding for Graduate Students contains up-to-date information on thousands of financial aid programs open to graduate students. The database describes various program types, including fellowships, loans, grants, dissertation/thesis support, internships, and awards.

- **RSP Funding Finder for Undergraduates**
  Over 4,000 grants for undergrads. Includes scholarships, loans, grants, internships, and awards. Details eligibility requirements such as citizenship, gender, ethnicity, military affiliation, disabilities, student rank, financial need, student status, etc.

- **SPIN: Sponsored Programs Information Network**
  Funding information for research, development activities, international projects, collaborative programs, fellowships, academic exchange programs, and more. Searchable by citizenship, geographic areas and restrictions, deadlines, subjects, and more.
Application Process

- No generic application form for applications
  - Get the latest guidelines from each funder
- Apply early and to multiple sources
  - Deadlines typically fall between December and March/April
- Some foundations require an essay, statement of intent to study, or letters of recommendation – so be prepared.

Red Handout: Tips for the application process
Summary

- Have a firm funding plan
- Research grantmakers to match your profile to their interests
- Are you eligible?
- Follow their guidelines
- Consider pre-proposal contact
- Complete the application in full
- Follow-up with your prospects
- Allow plenty of time!
Databases and Search Sites

- **COS Pivot** (previously Community of Science)
- **SPIN**
- **Grant Forward** (previously IRIS)
- **Foundation Grants to Individuals** (Memorial Library only)
- **RSP Funding for Undergraduate Students**
- Some free internet based databases – see the free websites tab on the Funding for International Students research guide.
RSPFundingFinder

- In the Login Box, click on “New User? Register Here”
- On the Account Registration page
  - Be sure to indicate your citizenship in the Residency section
  - Use the “Outside the US” drop-down menu to do so
- Once you’ve created a login, you will answer four pages of detailed questions about yourself – remember to think creatively.
- You can always return to both your results and the questionnaire using your new login.
Funding Databases

COS Pivot

- Use “Advanced Search”
- Fill in these fields (only):
  - Activity Location (find and select Wisconsin)
  - Citizenship
  - Funding type
  - Keywords
  - Requirements (undergraduate)
Funding Databases

Grant Forward (formerly IRIS)
- Click on Advanced Search
- Select Categories
- Consider filling in the following:
  - Type (Award, Fellowship, Research, etc.)
  - Applicant Type (undergraduate, international)
  - Status (open, continuous, or closed)
Funding Databases

**SPIN**

- Click on Category Filters
- Fill in the categories, especially Citizenship Status and Applicant type
  - This limits your search results based on these categories
- Use Basic or Advanced search for keywords
  - Advanced uses drop-down menus, but with more search options
Funding Databases

Foundation Grants to Individuals

- Memorial Library Only
- Click on Advanced Search
- Use view index to fill out these fields:
  - Field of Interest (subject)
  - Types of Support
  - Geographic Focus
Questions & Discussion

Remember, searching for grants takes time. You can always contact me for more guidance or an appointment.