

GETTING YOUR RESEARCH FUNDED

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MY OWN RESEARCH

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA IN WEST AFRICA

WHAT ARE FUNDERS LOOKING FOR?

WHY, HOW, WHO



This research is **important**

- * What this knowledge could mean in social sciences, politics, or broader understandings of the world (without being grandiose)
- * Not simply how it is relevant to political science or international relations
- * Even if prior research has been done on similar subjects, yours does something new

This is the best (or only) place to do your research

- * Even if your research is a global IR issue, consider one or two cases
- * Justify not just as an example of a global phenomenon, but as the best place to understand this phenomenon

This funder is the most appropriate one

- * Read successful applications for the grant
- * Look up previous grant winners, read their abstracts
- * Tailor, tailor, tailor
- * Use the funder's own terminology

You can do this research

- * Show (and tell) why this research is best done by **YOU**
- * You have sufficient skills, preparation, knowledge, perspective, and attitude
- * You're not just jumping on a bandwagon

YOUR TURN

TAILOR YOUR PROJECT



Write down

- * Your research question
- * Two sentences about why your research is important
- * One sentence about why you want to do your research in a particular place or in a particular way
- * What funder you're interested in and why
- * Two sentences on why you're the best person to conduct this research

HOW DO I ACTUALLY DO THIS?

TECHNIQUES TO GET YOU
THERE



Do some **preliminary research**

- * Use department and center grants for pre-dissertation research
- * Attend official meetings as ISA member
- * Participate in an internship
- * Affiliate with a professor at your school or another institution for the summer to conduct research

Have a **plan**

- * Provide specifics on how you will conduct research
- * What type of analysis will you do? How will you know you have the answer to your question?
- * What skills do you have or will you be developing?
- * Develop a *realistic* timeline from grant to research to writing to defense (completion)

Ask questions

- * Many funders have staff to answer application questions – ask, rather than wonder
- * Many professors or former students have advised or received grants
- * Ask and web search for examples – use similar wording and structure if appropriate

Consider the **problems**

- * What issues might you have with:
 - * access?
 - * language?
 - * time?
 - * cost?
 - * analysis?
- * What could you do to mitigate these issues?

Revise (seriously)

- * Make sure the grant application doesn't sound like your prospectus
- * Ask a peer, professor, peer review program, friend in another discipline or in another field
- * Carefully consider the feedback, remembering that even if you don't agree, you might need to make your point clearer
- * But: if something doesn't work for you, no need to incorporate all feedback

QUESTIONS?

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