



NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

DISSERTATION GRANTS

Application Deadline: June 3, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Dissertation Grants program is to support doctoral students by providing funding for the costs of dissertation research. Applications are encouraged from doctoral candidates in a variety of academic disciplines and programs. This program will ultimately facilitate the entry of promising new investigators into the field of gambling research, including gambling disorder, gambling policy and responsible gambling. This award is for up to one year of support for the completion of the doctoral dissertation research project. Requests for no-cost extensions beyond 12 months will be considered.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible principal investigators (PIs) are doctoral students at the dissertation stage of training with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. The applicant must have an approved dissertation proposal (at the time of award), show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences, and a commitment to a career as an independent research scientist, or as an independent physician-scientist or other clinician-scientist (dual-degree training).

The applicant must be currently enrolled in a PhD or equivalent research degree program, a formally combined MD/PhD program, or other combined professional/clinical and research doctoral in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Applicants may request up to \$2,000 in direct costs. No indirect costs are allowed. Funds may be used for infrastructure costs incurred by the dissertation research project such as equipment, participant payments, travel and animals. Funds may not be used for salary.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

An appropriate scientific review group convened in accordance with the standard NCRG peer review procedures, modeled on those of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit.

The peer review panel will evaluate proposals according to the following criteria, adapted from the NIH:

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Is the Principal Investigator (PI) well suited to the project?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies instrumentation or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success presented? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for protection of human subjects from research risks justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations or collaborative arrangements?

Letters of Support: The faculty advisor, dissertation committee chair, or university official directly responsible for supervising the dissertation research must submit a letter certifying that the PI meets the eligibility criteria for this award.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must use the application form provided on the NCRG website (www.ncrg.org/research-center). Enter text in the shaded areas on the form. The document will automatically convert the text into Arial font. A single PDF file should be assembled including the following information.

Face Page (1 page)

The Principal Investigator is the person responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project and is the primary contact for the NCRG. Provide full name, degree(s), title, department, institution, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

Date of Proposed Period of Support. Projects may begin July 1, 2019.

Funds Requested. Requests may not exceed \$2,000.

Applicant Organization. The Applicant Organization is legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities supported by the award. Provide the name and contact information of the Applicant Organization's Administrative Contact.

Regulatory Approvals. Please check the appropriate box to indicate the use of animals (IACUC) or human subjects (IRB) in the proposed project. Note that the PI must provide a copy of the IACUC and/or IRB letter to the NCRG before award funds will be released. Pending approvals at the time of application submission are acceptable.

Certifications. Provide the electronic signatures of the Principal Investigator and the Official Signing for the Organization by typing the names in the shaded box and checking the "Confirm Signature" box.

Page Two: Aims (1 page)

Enter text into the shaded areas.

Specific Aims. State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the grant period.

Page Three: Budget (1 page)

Use the form provided to present a summary of the proposed budget.

Allowable cost Items include any infrastructure expenses incurred by the proposed research project including equipment, participant fees, travel and animals. Funding will not be provided for the following: administrative personnel; stipends; office equipment and furniture; tuition; dues and membership fees; maintenance/service contracts;

construction, alteration, maintenance or rental of buildings or building space; entertainment/social expenses; and pre-award costs.

In the space below the Budget Summary, explain and justify costs presented, providing calculations to demonstrate how amounts were determined. Enter text in the shaded area.

Appendix

Letter of Support: The faculty advisor, dissertation committee chair, or university official directly responsible for supervising the dissertation research must submit a letter certifying that the PI meets the eligibility criteria for this award.

The Appendix should also include items such as a **list of references** cited.

Provide a **biographical sketch** for the principal investigator. Download from <http://www.ncrg.org/research-center/apply-ncrg-funding>. The PI's biographical sketch should not exceed five pages.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Create a single PDF document named as follows: PI's Last Name_Dissertation_2019. Use a PDF-creation software such as Adobe® Acrobat® Professional to create the PDF rather than scanning hard copies to produce a PDF. Such files can be difficult to e-mail or open and, therefore, will not be accepted for review. Upload the document to the NCRG Review Express website (<https://editorialexpress.com/ncrg>) by 5 p.m. (Eastern) on June 3, 2019.

Questions? Contact Christine Reilly, Senior Research Director (creilly@ncrg.org; 978-338-6610) or Shayna Adams, Program Officer (sadams@ncrg.org; 978-338-6610).