

# How to Write a High-Quality Department Research Grant

## The Most Important Questions to Answer:

1. Clearly state your research question.
2. Clearly describe how you seek to answer it and why you will answer it in the way that you have chosen.
3. Explain why you chose your method.
  - How/why does that method best let you answer your question?
4. Explain how and why you chose the case(s) you are studying.
  - What does that selection help us learn?
5. Articulate a clear theoretical framework.
  - Explain your project's contribution to the political science literature.

## Other Questions to Address

1. Why is your topic important? (*Briefly!*)
  - Which members of society—apart from researchers in your field—might benefit from your work?
  - To address this, you might explain how your research informs policy or contributes to the policy community.
2. How does your study add to understanding on the topic beyond what has previously been done?
  - What is your original contribution to the field?
  - What contributions could your research make to related fields outside your main field of study?
3. How will this project help you advance through the program?

## Criteria Used by the Graduate Committee to Evaluate Fellowship Applications

1. Student Preparedness:
  - **How prepared is the student to complete their dissertation in the appropriate timeframe?**
  - Do they know their field and have the requisite methodological skills and background knowledge required?

2. Clear Research Plan:

- Does the student present a clear plan about how they will conduct research and complete the remaining chapters of their dissertation?

3. Well-Articulated Proposal:

- How well-articulated is their proposal?

4. Significance of Contribution:

- How significant is the student's contribution to the literature?
- What is the importance of their research question?

**Additional Advice**

Support for students writing their applications can be found at the GradSuccess Writing Center: <https://gwc.ucr.edu/>