

Russell G. Hamilton

Graduate Leadership Development Institute

2018-2019 Dissertation Enhancement Grant

Nature of the Grant: Awards of up to \$2000 for research expenses related to students doctoral thesis. Grants are designed for PhD Students with outstanding potential to accelerate progress on their research adding depth or breadth to their research. They are granted on a competitive basis.

Students may request awards of up to \$2,000; however, the GLDI may not be able to grant the full sum requested by every successful applicant. The degree of need demonstrated by the proposal and budget, the number of successful applications, and the total available funds will be considered when determining final awards.

Eligibility: Preference will be given to Ph.D. candidates (passed their Ph.D. qualifying examination and have approved dissertation proposal) engaged in full-time dissertation research. However, all Ph.D. students in good academic standing are eligible to apply. **Successful applicants must use the award by the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year** (June 30, 2019). A student may receive this award no more than twice during her or his career at Vanderbilt.

Funding: These awards are not a substitute for, nor a supplement to, graduate stipends. Award funds will either be provided directly to vendors via the Oracle procurement system, or will be provided to award recipients in the form of reimbursement for [eligible expenses](#).

Deadline: Friday, April 26, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

The application with original signatures must be delivered to the Graduate School by the deadline. Applicant materials should also submitted as a single PDF to irene.l.wallrich@vanderbilt.edu. **Late applications will not be considered.**

Application:

1. **Description of Dissertation Research:** Present a succinct overview of your dissertation research that clearly conveys the nature and importance of your work. Be certain to describe your project so reviewers outside your discipline are able to evaluate whether funding your application would enhance the dissertation. 2-page maximum.

1. Background - information relevant to your topic
2. Specific Goal(s) - the hypothesis you are testing or questions you are asking
3. Methods - strategies or methods you will employ to test your hypothesis
4. Significance - contribution that you hope your dissertation will make to your area of research

2. **Rationale for Dissertation Enhancement Grant:** Specifically state the purpose for which you propose to use the funds, clearly describing how the proposed project will add a new dimension, additional depth, breadth, or otherwise enhance your dissertation. 1-page maximum

3. **Budget:** This should outline in detail the costs to complete the proposed research: travel, lodging, equipment, supplies, and/or other expenses.

4. **Justification of Cost:** Provide a brief justification for why funds are not readily available from other sources (i.e., advisor's research grant, department, etc.) to support the enhancement project. If the cost of the project exceeds \$2000 (the maximum award), state how the extra cost will be met. Please justify any unusual budget items (for example: large amounts of computer time, personnel costs, etc.) If other funding sources are available to supplement support, the proposal should identify them. If no other funding sources are available, please provide a statement to that effect.

5. **Letter of Support:** A letter of support from a faculty member who will supervise the proposed research or who is familiar with your research.

Uses of the Grant: Examples of uses appropriate for a Dissertation Enhancement Grant include:

- Travel to sites of unique sources of research material, archives, and libraries.
- Consultation or collaborative work with experts in the area of the student's research when such support is not available at Vanderbilt, for example, learning a new research methodology or interviewing an author whom the student is studying.
- Participation in a specialty course or short course that will broaden the students understanding of research techniques, methods, or concepts that will enhance current dissertation work.
- Unique services not available at the university, such as sophisticated data or chemical analyses.
- The purchase of specialized small equipment items, supplies, data sets, **only** if funds for such items are not available from other sources (advisor's grant, departmental funds).
- A research assistant or other personnel to carry out work that the student could not reasonably be expected to conduct (extensive analysis of data, computer programming, etc.), but whose inclusion will greatly improve the dissertation.
- Payment of subjects participating in a research project, if the project is in addition to the basic dissertation research (e.g., is not required by the Ph.D. Committee) and if a strong rationale is provided to show that [subject payment](#), although not required, will enhance markedly the quality, scope, reliability, etc. of the data collected.

The application with instructions is available at the Graduate School's Web site:

<http://gradschool.vanderbilt.edu/gldi/funding>

Please contact Irene Wallrich for application questions (615-343-7030 or irene.l.wallrich@vanderbilt.edu)