CELSS Grants for Graduate Students’ Experimental Projects

The Columbia Experimental Laboratory in the Social Sciences (CELSS) provides funding to support promising experimental projects by graduate students who intend to use the lab.

Note: Unless part of a class, any experiment at CELSS requires approval by the Institutional Review Board (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/irb/) and the respect of the rules of use for the laboratory (http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/celss/rules/). Failure to comply with IRB and CELSS rules will result in the withdrawal of the grant.

Application
The deadline for Fall 2013 applications is April 15, 2014.
Later applications may be considered on a rolling basis, depending on funds’ availability.

The application must include: (1) the proposal; (2) the budget; (3) the applicant’s cv; (4) the endorsement of a faculty advisor.

The proposal should outline briefly the basic rationale of the research, the question under study, the relevance of an experiment to the project, and the experimental procedures. Its maximum length is 1,000 words, excluding bibliography.

The maximum budget is $1,000. However, if the application concerns a brand new experimental project, it is strongly recommended to apply for a seed grant of $500 or less for running a pilot experiment. Upon successful completion of the pilot, a summary of preliminary results and a new budget can be submitted requesting an additional $500. The bulk of the budget should be payments to experimental subjects, in line with the guidelines in Orsee. Additional miscellaneous expenses linked to the experiment, such as printing, can be included. Exceptions to the $1,000 limit can be requested but must be strongly motivated and have low probability of acceptance.

Applications will be evaluated competitively by a committee composed of faculty in Economics, Political Science, and the Business School. The committee retains the discretion to allocate fewer funds than requested.

The applicant should submit the items mentioned above in electronic form in a single compressed folder, and send the application to the CELSS manager, at celss-manager@columbia.edu. The title of the e-mail should be “Application for CELSS Funding” and the name of the compressed file should be “LastnameFirstname_CelssFundingApp”.

Next semester we will hold a “Lab Day”, during which and successful applicants will be requested to present their proposal and their results to the other successful applicants, the faculty selection committee, and their advisor. Attendance to the Lab Day is mandatory.

Eligibility
Applicants must be advanced doctoral students at Columbia.

Requests for clarification
Questions concerning this call for proposal and the use of the lab can be addressed to the CELSS manager, at celss-manager@columbia.edu, or to the CELSS director at celss-director@columbia.edu.