



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate Funding Information Center

<http://gradfunding.web.unc.edu>

<https://fundingportal.unc.edu/>

gfic@unc.edu

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200 Bynum Hall

Funding Information Portal: Browse a collection of online resources designed to help students identify and apply for funding at fundingportal.unc.edu.

Funding Workshops: Attend an hour-long session on searching for funding opportunities and crafting strong applications. Topics covered include funding databases like InfoEd Global SPIN, the Carolina Internal Funding Database, and the Successful Proposals Collection.

Consultations: Meet one-on-one with a GFIC staff member to develop a strategy for finding grants and scholarships that support your needs and interests.

Email: Send questions to gfic@unc.edu.

GFIC holds **two to three workshops per month** during the regular school year.

Check our website at gradfunding.web.unc.edu/training for upcoming workshops and registration.

Workshops meet in the **Health Sciences Library, Room 307.**

Walk-ins will be welcome as space permits.

Funding Basics

Start Early

Give yourself plenty of time to research sponsors and to plan and write your proposals. Don't get closed out of good opportunities by waiting too late.

Plan Ahead

Think about your funding needs for the long-term—not just for next year, but also for future activities.

Take advantage of resources available

The Graduate Funding Information Center provides services to UNC-Chapel Hill graduate students for locating funding opportunities. We offer web-based access to funding databases, a collection of reference materials, and individualized instruction and consultation on the best use of our resources.

Use your network of colleagues to stay aware of trends

Experienced researchers often have advance knowledge of upcoming funding opportunities. Federal government requests for applications (RFAs) are frequently announced with very short turn-around times, and having advance knowledge of them would allow you extra time to prepare your proposal. Stay connected with people who know what is coming up.

Be aware of the motivations of grant-makers

All grant-makers want to fund proposals that are relevant to their interests, and have varied reasons why they want to give away money. Some are issue-oriented and want to fund projects that advance their issue. Some will fund only those projects that impact the community they serve or relate to their core business. Others want to support the development of junior people in their field. As you research funding opportunities, pay attention to information about the motivations of the grant-maker and use it when contacting the agency and preparing your proposal.

Try different search terms and combinations of search terms

Don't settle for just one search. The terms you use to describe an idea may not be the same ones chosen by the person who wrote the abstract or the person who indexed the announcement. So, to find grants on the history of jazz performances, try a variety of search terms (music, jazz, history, performing arts, arts and humanities, and other relevant terms).

Broaden your search

Your research area may be very specific, but grant-makers' funding interests are often described in very broad terms, such as humanities or health care. This is especially true of foundation and corporate giving programs. So, if your research area is breast cancer, you will need to search broadly under cancer, health care, women's health, or multidisciplinary biomedical research. Your search will not be comprehensive, and you will miss potential funders, if you search only for the specific topic of breast cancer.

Be creative in your approach

There are multiple sources of funding information and different ways to use the information. You can do a straightforward search for funding announcements, or you can look through grants previously awarded in your area of interest to identify target agencies, or you can find other researchers working on similar projects and ask them about their funding sources. Ask for advice on creative approaches from the staff at the Graduate Funding Information Center.

How to start your funding search

- Use the Graduate Funding Information Center's website (<http://gradfunding.web.unc.edu>) to search funding databases, set up funding alerts, view specialized funding guides, and use other resources.
- Attend a training session on identifying funding.
- Contact the Graduate Funding Information Center if you have questions.