INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDS

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Montana State University Graduate School (GS) and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPRED) are pleased to announce the availability of funds to support graduate student research activities. Innovative proposals are sought that reflect independent thought aligned with current thesis, dissertation, and studio objectives. Funds may be used for research during the summer or fall 2015.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING LEVEL
Graduate students in good academic standing (GPA > 3.0) seeking an MFA, MS (thesis only), and PhD are eligible and encouraged to apply. The total funding for this year’s grant program is $20,000. The award may be up to $2,000/proposal. The awarded funds will be placed into the Principal Investigator’s (PI) Restricted Gift account. It is the responsibility of the PI to monitor the funds for the student.

PROPOSAL FORMAT
A three-page proposal (11 pt font and one inch margins) should include the following:

- Scope/background of research proposed (up to one-half page)
- Specific aims/objectives/goals (up to one-half page)
- Methods/approach (up to one page)
- Expected outcomes (up to one-half page)
- Potential significance of your research and its impact on your discipline (up to one-half page)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Cover page: Thesis/Dissertation/Studio title, student’s name, email address, department, center or institute affiliations; up to 5 keywords, and a brief overview/summary (less than 250 words)
- Biosketch not to exceed two pages (the NSF style is recommended)
- References cited not to exceed one page
- Proposed budget and budget justification not to exceed one page (only costs of materials and supplies are eligible for funding)
- A letter of support from your PI addressing the student’s ability to conduct the research and the alignment of the proposed research with the student’s thesis/dissertation/studio objectives
- Matching funds, if available, and source (with authorizing signature(s))

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of innovation, feasibility, scientific/academic merit, expected outcomes, and the ability to have a strong impact on the stated discipline. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least two research scientists with expertise in the applicant’s field of study and prioritized by a review panel for a funding recommendation. Proposals that do not follow the format outlined above will not be reviewed.

Recommendations for funding will be prioritized and applicants will be notified by mid May 2015 time frame. Awardees are expected to turn in a report to The GS detailing exactly how the funds were spent no later than December 1, 2015. Further, awardees are expected to acknowledge the financial support of MSU’s GS and the OVPRED in any related publication or scholarly work and the student may be asked by The GS to participate in a 3-minute video about their research.

Electronic proposals are due to The Graduate School by April 15, 2015.
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