

Graduate Student Summit- Pre Submission Review Resources

Main Topics Discussed:

- Scholarships and Fellowships
 - Grants
 - Mentors/Advisors
 - Types of Proposal Reviewers
 - MSU Specific Resources
 - Networking
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Scholarships and Fellowships:

- Many smaller scholarships can be found almost everywhere from scholastic organizations to small businesses around your town.
- Checking with the local Chamber of Commerce can be a great starting block for locating scholarships and fellowships to apply for
- These look fantastic on resumes or CV's
- Sometimes simply asking if a department or organization offers a fellowship/scholarship/funding is a method for discovering possible resources
- Don't forget to research the big fellowships as well
 - NSF and NIH

Grants:

- Having an established degree can help or be one of the deciding factors in obtaining a grant only sometimes, usually when the grant is an academic oriented grant is a higher educational degree needed to be competitive
- Non-profit oriented grants are not as adamant about the specific degree as the proposal content and other factors
- Who you know is an important factor and can help raise your chances in not just earning the grant, but also in every aspect of an academic endeavor.
 - Becoming established with the professional organization that is pertinent to your field of study is important and a phenomenal way to network.
 - Example) Exercise Science Degrees and the ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine)

Mentors and Advisors:

- A mentor or PI has a professional responsibility to look over and review their student's proposals
 - If the unfortunate situation occurs where the advisors or PI is unable to review their students proposals in a full manner then outside sources should be sought out.
- Having one's mentor or Advisor review their proposal in its full context not just sections can be beneficial to a quality and successful proposal
- Give reviewer ample time to review the proposal
 - 2 to 3 weeks

Types of Proposal Reviewers:

- Main faculty mentor or advisor
- PI of research
- Mentors outside of one's department or school should be considered in order to give a broad and new look on the paper's content and how it is presented
- It is important to have your reviewers be brutally but constructively honest with you about your proposal since the admissions or acceptance board may be harsh in their review of it.

Proposal Specific Writing Details:

- If the committee reviewing your proposal are all experts in the field than your reviewers should most likely be well versed in the topic as well
- If the committee reviewing the proposal is broader in disciplines than having a more broad range of disciplines in your reviewers might be beneficial.
- It is crucial that the main reason and significance of your research or proposal be put into everyday terms so that it can be seen as applicable to the everyday person and marketable to them if significant results are discovered.
- Asking students who have applied and received the same fellowship you are applying to can be a very productive resources, especially if one is unsure about whether or not their proposal is a strong contender.

MSU Specific Resources:

- There is not an establish reviewer board that's main goal is to edit and review graduate students proposals; however, in the future this is a goal for MSU

Other Topic Main Points of Discussion:

- When creating a timeline for the proposal submission, one should make the "PERFECT" timeline as we all know disasters, mishaps, and setbacks happen. Instead make a "DISASTER" timeline that allows for broad time to fix mistakes if they occur.
- Propose a getaway for the graduate students and advisor to have a review weekend where each student will return with two to three solid reviews of their proposal
 - Can establish bonding or even be a means to network with various departments if made into a larger event