Benevolent Grant FAQ

Can I apply for research or creative projects that are not related to my dissertation or a terminal degree?

Yes, but you should justify why this project should receive funding. For example, the research is pre-dissertation research that is required to conduct your dissertation topic.

Can I use the Benevolent Grant to pay for expenses outside of the grant period?

No, the Benevolent Grant will only pay for expenses incurred during the award period. The Fall award applies to expenses incurred during the following Spring semester, while the Spring award applies to the following Summer and Fall semesters.

Do I need to have my topic, committee and proposal approved to apply?

No, but strong preference is given to applicants who do have an approved topic, committee and proposal.

What Expenses are covered?

- Travel to conduct research at libraries, archives, laboratories and other research facilities and resources
- Costs of information access
- Remuneration of human subjects
- Purchase of supplies or equipment rental. *Students should be aware that there may be restrictions on what type of research supplies can be purchased and should check with their research advisor.*
- Other research related expenses not specifically excluded

What expenses are not covered?

- Purchase of office equipment (e.g. laptops or computers)
- Travel to present research or attend conferences
- Cost to produce a manuscript
What helps make a successful grant application?

- Proposal followed instructions correctly, for example:
  - CV was kept to two pages and only includes the requested information
  - Applicant does not request more funding than is provided by the grant
- Budget adds up correctly and includes requests Benevolent funding for expenses that can be covered by the grant.
- Budget is reasonable, justifiable, and clearly needed for the research.
- Budget addresses the question of outside funding
- Projective narrative has a rationale and conveys the significance of the research to reviewers
- If required research compliance clearances and approvals were received (e.g. approval to use humans or animal subjects or biohazards)
- Timeline was detailed but realistic to accomplish
- Proposal was clear and easy to understand and had a limited use of jargon.
- Provide enough background information to understand what you are doing and why.
- Clearly defined methodology and data analysis section that is feasible and that raters from other fields can understand and evaluate.
- Follow the guidelines
- Recommendation of the dean or chair with justification and rationale for the rankings
- Written comments in the advisors statement (or an attached letter).