

Minnesota Population Center (MPC) Graduate Student Research Development Grants

MPC invites applications for Graduate Student Research Development Grants. The purpose of these grants is to help MPC Student Members develop independent research projects toward their dissertations, theses, or publishable papers. MPC supports research in population studies, broadly defined, with a focus on five primary research areas:

- [Population Data Science](#)
- [Population Health and Health Systems](#)
- [Population Mobility and Spatial Demography](#)
- [Reproductive and Sexual Health](#)
- [Work, Family, and Time](#)

These small grants (up to \$2,000) are designed to help graduate students access the resources they need to develop, conduct, or complete a research project. Funds may be used for travel for field work or other research, to purchase data or software, to hire field researchers or pay participants, or to hire a translator or transcriber. Other similar expenses may be eligible. Funds may not be used to cover dissemination, training, or professional development expenses. All funds must be spent within 12 months from the start date of the grant. Please contact Gina Rumore (grumore@gmail.com) if you have questions about allowable expenses.

MPC expects to make two to four Graduate Student Research Grants per year. Applications will be reviewed biannually at the February and October Advisory Board meetings. All applications must be received by February 15 or October 15 to be considered in the respective, spring semester/fall semester, cycle.

Eligibility

All MPC Graduate Student Members (Master's and PhD) are eligible to apply. University of Minnesota graduate students who are not currently affiliated with MPC can request affiliation (and thus become eligible to apply) by contacting Gina Rumore (grumore@umn.edu). Individuals are not eligible for more than one grant in an academic year, though applicants may reapply in a subsequent round if not funded. To be considered for a second grant, applicants must demonstrate that they accomplished all they promised for a previous grant.

Submission Instructions

MPC Graduate Research Development Grant applications must be sent to Gina Rumore (grumore@umn.edu) by midnight on February 15 or October 15.

Completed MPC Research Development Grant applications must include:

1. A two-page overview of the proposed research project, clearly demonstrating the need for the proposed activities to be funded:
 - Project title
 - Executive summary/abstract (less than 150 words)
 - Specific aim(s) or research question(s)
 - A statement regarding the *significance* of the research to be proposed
 - A brief discussion of *likely methods and data* to be used in the research plan
 - A discussion of the anticipated outcome of the funded activity
 - A short justification for funds requested
2. Up to one page of references and/or tables and figures
3. A two-page curriculum vitae
4. An email or letter from student's advisor approving the proposed project and activity

Evaluation Criteria

Applications for MPC Graduate Student Research Development Grants will be evaluated by the MPC Advisory Board based on the promise of the project to lead toward a dissertation or thesis chapter, a publishable paper, or a proposal for external funding. Specific criteria include: a clearly defined research question or questions; significance of research question(s) and relevance to one of the themes listed above; clearly articulated, appropriate plan of research; feasibility.