Funding for Methods Schools

Purpose:

Funding to attend external methods schools is intended to enable students to gain methods training beyond what is offered by UBC’s Department of Political Science, other UBC departments, or other local institutions covered by the Western Dean’s Agreement (e.g., SFU). This should be training that students and their supervisors regard as vital for their doctoral research. Supplemental methods training might include, for example, attendance at the ICPSR (quantitative methods) summer school at the University of Michigan or the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Doctoral students who have entered candidacy (i.e. completed courses and exams and defended their prospectus) and who have a demonstrable need for additional methods training beyond what is offered to them at UBC (through political science courses or through other departments) may be eligible for up to $3000 to attend a methods school to supplement their UBC methods training, subject to available funds. Departmental funding is generally limited to one methods summer school opportunity per student. Students who wish to attend more than one summer school should look for external funding sources, including scholarships offered by methods institutes.

In order to use our available resources as efficiently as possible, students applying for methods-school funding should:

- Have taken all available quantitative methods courses that are taught in-house (including POLI 574 when it is offered) and before they attend a quantitative methods summer school.
- Exhaust all relevant offerings by the Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, or other UBC Departments and by SFU’s Political Science Department.
- Be planning to receive training that is not offered at UBC.
- Apply for any available external funding. ICPSR offers scholarships, and IQMR has an “open pool” competition (deadline in 2017 is Nov. 20).

Application process

There is no application form for this funding opportunity. Applicants should submit by email to Josephine Calazan (josephine.calazan@ubc.ca) by Jan. 5, 2017 (or the first business day thereafter) the following:

1) The name, dates, and location of the methods school the student would like to attend
2) A one-paragraph explanation of how precisely the methods to be acquired at this methods school are required for completion of the dissertation. This justification will receive careful scrutiny as we have limited funds to dispense and need to be sure that we are spending them in the most productive way possible.

3) A short statement from their supervisor indicating an endorsement of the student’s justification. (Thus, you must send your justification to your supervisor to review.)

4) A list of all graduate methods courses taken at UBC to date.

Only complete applications will be considered.

**Other Procedures**

Within 1 month of their return from a methods school, students must compete a brief report on how the training received contributed to their skill set and research. This report should be sent to Josephine Calazan and to the student’s supervisor.