**PRESS Funding Application Guidelines**

**Version: 11/1/2021**

**Overview**

PRESS grants are intended to fund smaller, early-stage projects (e.g. 591, empirical paper, early dissertation). Applications for funding for pilot studies and other preliminary efforts will be considered, although lower funding thresholds for such projects will generally be more competitive. As PRESS grants are intended to help foster an experimental research community at Princeton, there is a strong expectation that those who apply for PRESS funds are also active participants at PRESS events. **At minimum, we expect graduate-level applicants to attend at least one research workshop per semester.**

The current grant limit is $1500, although PRESS has received increasing numbers of requests in recent years and may not be able to fully fund accepted proposals.

**You will be submitting the following:**

* Through SAFE:
	+ Project Proposal (2 pages, single-spaced)
	+ Ethics Statement (up to 1 page, single-spaced)
* After project completion:
	+ Post-results Summary (~1-2 pages, single-spaced)
1. **Project Proposal (2 pages max)**

**Each proposal should contain the following elements.**

**Header**

At the very top of the application, provide the following information:

* Your full name
* Your class year and program/academic position/etc.
* Your project’s full title (as submitted on SAFE)

**Introduction and motivation:**

The application text should begin with a statement of the central research question that the proposed project addresses. If the proposal is part of a larger project like a dissertation, applicants should provide a brief overview of the project and how this component contributes to it. The applicant should also describe why their proposed research is important, situate it relative to existing academic work, and make clear what the unique contribution of their study will be. The section should end with a short overview (1-2 sentences) of the proposed experiment.

**Theory and hypotheses:**

Make clear what theoretical perspective(s) the proposed study address, motivate and list the main hypothesis(ese) the study will test, and outline the observable implications in the context of the proposed experiment.

**Experimental design:**

Provide a detailed description of the design for the proposed experiment. What are the treatment and control conditions? How will subjects be assigned to each condition? If possible, provide sample text/images/screenshots etc. of the proposed treatments. Provide a description of the main independent and dependent variables and explain how they will be measured. You may also briefly outline your proposed analysis plan.

**Sampling strategy:**

Motivate and describe the population of interest for the study and the sampling method for experimental subjects. Explain and justify the sampling frame, particularly any difference from the population of theoretical interest (discussion may include strategies for populations that are difficult/expensive to reach). This section should also state if you plan to work with a survey company (e.g., Lucid, Cint, Facebook) and what programs will be used to implement the study (e.g., Qualtrics, Facebook ads, etc.)

Provide a justification for your proposed number of respondents, such as through a formal power analysis (see <https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/other/mult-pkg/seminars/intro-power/>). Identify what effects are standard from previous research and estimate the sample size you need. Successful projects will demonstrate thoughtful efforts at containing costs while maintaining research quality.

**Proposed budget:**

Provide an itemized list of the expenses associated with the proposed project and the total amount of funding requested. Note: funding allocations will not exceed $1500. Please state any other funding you have either already received for this project or for which you have applied and is pending (and indicate whether those funds will complement or replace this PRESS grant).

***Please limit this Project Proposal to two pages.***

1. **Ethics Statement (~1 page)**

**Overview**

Applicants are required to submit a brief statement of consideration of the potential ethical concerns implicated by their project, including how their design elements and their information sharing strategies address ethical considerations. Our intention is to encourage researcher awareness and reflection on the implications of interacting with and affecting human subjects. We encourage engagement with the ethical principle of respect for the personhood of research participants.

Applicants may find it useful to consult *The Oxford Handbook of Research Ethics* (2021; edited by Ana S. Iltis and Douglas MacKay) and/or *Ethics and Experiments: Problems and Solutions for Social Scientists and Policy Professionals*. (Routledge, 2015; edited by Scott Desposato).

**Questions to consider**:

1. What are the costs and possible risks to respondents? To the communities from which respondents will be drawn? How will the project address or minimize these?
2. Will participants potentially benefit from the study? Are there ethical considerations for exclusion from the study’s benefits? What are the possible benefits to society at large for research?
3. How do you weigh the possible benefits and risks? Can you further address them through information sharing with target populations after the study’s completion? What does that plan entail?
4. **Post-Results Summary**

**Overview and Summary**

Upon completion of the funded, PRESS grant recipients will provide a brief overview of their implemented design and key results, highlighting implications for the stated hypotheses and broader research agenda. If relevant, recipients may also choose to include research advice or tips gained from the conduct of the research.

These summaries will be retained to help to document the work that PRESS scholars have conducted.