UC San Diego
SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Social Sciences Research Grants

Goals: 1. Support faculty research and grant proposal writing activities in the School of Social Sciences that could lead to external research funding.

2. Support faculty in career stages or conducting research in topic areas that have limited funding opportunities.

Funding For: Research and grant proposal writing expenses in all areas of social science

Examples of fundable expenses include: pay for student researchers, travel to field sites, participant compensation, teaching relief for grant proposal writing, and writing services to assist grant proposal writing

Funding is not available for faculty summer salary. Proposals for scholarly communication, such as conferences, workshops, and speaker series will be funded separately through the Dean's Special Initiatives Fund (see separate policy).

How Much: Up to $25,000 each. Up to a total of $200,000 per year will be awarded by the School.

Who: Current School of Social Sciences faculty who are Academic Senate members. Proposals can be submitted by individual faculty members or by groups of faculty. Program will fund at most one project from any faculty member at a time.

Project Length: 2 years or less

Process: Decisions will be made by a committee of School faculty, chaired by Associate Dean Bergen.

Start Date: October 1, 2026

Proposal Deadline: February 26, 2027 (notification of decision by early April)

Proposal Content: A. Project description [maximum 2 pages]

1. Description of project and activities that will be supported

2. Explanation of how this project fits into the faculty member's broader research agenda

3. Description of the project's significance for the field

4. Subsequent external funding proposals that this project will lead to, specifying viable funding opportunities.

B. Budget and Budget Narrative [maximum 2 pages]

1. Other funding the researcher(s) has/have been awarded for this and other current projects

2. Evidence of financial need (for instance, lack of startup or existing grant resources).

3. Budget Narrative (including requested student researcher appointment percentages and Tuition/Fees values, as appropriate)

4. Draft Budget

Submission: Submit all the proposal content in a single file via the online submission portal (https://goo.gl/forms/41YyZxd6ED92ijsA2). To use this portal, applicant must log in using UCSD email address and AD (wifi/email) password.

Summary Also to submit through the portal: a brief description (maximum 100 words) for a general audience of the proposed activity and its impact, to be used in public communication about divisional activities.

Reporting One year after receipt of a grant, faculty submit a brief report of its outcomes to date, including external funding applied for and secured through help of divisional funds, associated publications and presentations, and results and impact of research. The report submission form is here: https://goo.gl/forms/dmfiQDPsF0vPnm912

Questions: Associate Dean Ben Bergen (bkbergen@ucsd.edu) or Assistant Dean Nieves Rankin (DSSAsstDean@ucsd.edu)