

Skomp Feasibility Fellowships

David C. Skomp was a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology who received his MA degree in 1965. He set up a private foundation which provides the department with funds for graduate student grants. The David C. Skomp Fellowship account receives its funds from the interest of his foundation's investments. These funds vary in amount from year to year as there are fluctuations in the health of the nation's economy.

The Department of Anthropology awards a limited number of fellowships to graduate students under our Skomp Feasibility Fellowship program. Skomp fellowships are meant to enable students to undertake a summer *feasibility* study that will test the methods and approaches they plan to use for their dissertation research in a future field season. Well-conceived pilot studies are expected to produce data that can form the basis of grant proposals to fund dissertation research.

The competition is open to students in all subfields and the Graduate Affairs Committee critically reviews all applications. Although it is expected that every well-conceived feasibility research proposal will be funded, the Department cannot guarantee full funding of all requests. The application procedures and accounting for the awards are designed to give students practice in all aspects of grant preparation and reporting.

NOTE: HUMAN SUBJECTS, ANIMAL CARE, BIOSAFETY

The Department of Anthropology requires that you obtain approvals from the appropriate institutional boards before funds are disbursed for your summer feasibility study. This includes the Human Subjects Committee (IRB), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (see links provided under research compliance at http://researchadmin.iu.edu/REEP/reep_policies.html). You must demonstrate that you have applied for approval *by the time you submit the application*. Once your approval is obtained, email the DGS with protocol approval numbers and expiration dates.

If your research does not involve human subjects or archives of human subjects, animals or any biological materials, you probably constitute an exception, but you should check with your advisor to make certain. Most social/cultural, bioanthropology, and linguistics students will need to have their work approved. Some archaeology students will constitute an exception, but not all. If you need further information and assistance, contact the DGS or your advisor, or go online to <http://www.researchadmin.iu.edu/cs.html>.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The fellowships are for a minimum of four weeks of *feasibility* study.
2. Skomp funds cannot be used to support language training.
3. The maximum fellowship award is \$3,000 but normally fellowships will be less than this amount. In recent years, we have not been able to fund students' entire budgets. Please be prepared to supplement your Skomp fellowships through other means.
4. Students are normally awarded only a single feasibility fellowship, but should the dissertation project prove infeasible, or should circumstances beyond the student's control change so that the dissertation project becomes untenable, a second award may be granted. No student will receive more than \$6,000 total, nor will any student be funded for more than two summers.
5. Exception: Students whose research is in the continental U.S. are an exception; they are eligible for a second award to gather their dissertation data if they do not receive adequate funding from external sources. Please make it clear in your application if this will be your second Skomp, based on this exception.
6. Assessment will include a consideration of the student's academic record and progress towards a degree. A student will not qualify for a fellowship if he or she has more than one incomplete grade.
7. Once an award is made, the funds will be disbursed as a fellowship to students' bursar accounts. If students have an outstanding tuition balance, the fellowship will first apply to that balance; then any remainder will be credited to their personal bank account as a refund. Some portion of the fellowship may be taxable. Please contact a tax advisor or the IRS to determine whether or not your fellowship has a tax liability.
8. As stated above, IRB or other approvals must be received before funds will be disbursed.