Department Skomp Summer Research Feasibility Study Awards

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 awards. The David C. Skomp fellowship account receives it 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. In recent years we have not been able to fund students’ entire budgets. Please be prepared to supplement your Skomp award with private funds, other research awards, or student loans.

The Department of Anthropology awards a limited number of summer fellowship awards to graduate students under our Skomp Summer Feasibility Study award program. Prior clearance from the Bloomington Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects is required if the student will be dealing with human beings or archives of human beings. If dealing with animals or certain biological processes it is necessary to obtain clearance from the appropriate committees. See details below.

The competition is open to students in all subfields. The Graduate Affairs Committee critically reviews applications, but it is expected that every well-conceived feasibility research proposal will be funded though the Department cannot guarantee full funding of all requests. Skomp fellowships are meant to enable students to undertake a feasibility study that will test the methods and approaches they plan to use for their dissertation research, and that the feasibility study will be conducted prior to beginning dissertation research. The application procedures and accounting for the awards are designed to give students practice in all aspects of grant preparation and reporting. Well-conceived pilot studies are expected to produce data that can form the basis of grant proposals.

A. Human Subjects, Animal Care, Biosafety

All students should remember that if you are working with human subjects or archives of human subjects, you must obtain approval from the IRB (Internal Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects).

Social-cultural and linguistic anthropology students are required to obtain approval from the IRB. Archeology and bio anthropology student should check with their advisors to determine if they need approvals.

The Department of Anthropology requires that students obtain approvals from the appropriate institutional boards before they will be awarded funds for a summer feasibility study. This includes the Human Subjects Committee at IRB@iu.edu, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at BIACUC@indiana.edu, and the Institutional Biosafety Committee at IUBIBC@indiana.edu.

If you need further information and assistance, contact the DGS or a member of the Graduate Affairs Committee, or go online to http://www.researchadmin.iu.edu/cs.html. Once your approval is obtained, contact the DGS with protocol approval numbers and expiration dates.

B. General Principles
1. The fellowships are for a minimum of eight weeks of feasibility study. Usually, they are not to fund Ph.D. research but rather the feasibility of carrying out the Ph.D. fieldwork.

2. **Exception:** these fellowships may be used to fund Ph.D. research in North America, in which case the student applying for Anthropology Department support must include a copy of a funding application to an external agency that would fully or partially fund the proposed research.

3. **Note:** Language training is not supported by these fellowships.

4. The maximum fellowship award is $3,000 but normally fellowships will be less than this amount. 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 North America 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.

6. Assessment will include a consideration of the student's academic record and progress towards a degree. A student will not qualify for an award if he or she has more than one incomplete grade.

7. Award will depend on whether the proposal describes a dissertation topic that is well developed enough that a summer's work will both test methods and provide a foundation for further work, including a grant proposal.

8. FUNDS DISBURSED: 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 award 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.

9. IRB APPROVAL or other approvals must be received before funds will be deposited to the student's account.

**C. Application Guidelines**

**Deadline:** The deadline will be announced through IU email accounts. Awards will be conferred by the Graduate Affairs Committee and announced approximately a month after the deadline.

a) **NARRATIVE QUESTIONS**

   In 2-3 pages provide brief narrative answers to the following questions:

   1. What is the focus of your investigation and your goal for the summer? (Include the location of your investigation.)
   2. Briefly discuss the major scholarly literature on your topic (mention several scholars whose work is relevant)
   3. Suggest how you expect to contribute to the discipline of anthropology.
   4. Explain the proposed methodologies for conducting your feasibility study?
   5. How will you determine the feasibility of your project?
   6. Explain what contacts, arrangements, or on-the-ground knowledge you already have, and how you will initiate your investigation.

b) **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW THAT DO NOT REQUIRE FULL SENTENCES.**

   1. What language skills do you have that are relevant to your research?
   2. What permissions do you have or need?
3. Have you submitted your application for human subject or animal care or biosafety for approval?
4. What transportation is available that you can use?
5. Who is your advisor? Has he or she read and approved this and written a recommendation?
6. BUDGET: Make the budget comprehensive, including the entirety of the feasibility study, not just the funds requested from the Skomp funding.
7. List other sources of funding you are applying for and/or have received.

c). OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

1. List other sources of funding you have received
2. List other sources of funding you have applied for
3. Inform the Director of Graduate Studies when you receive notice that you have been awarded other funding.

D. Requirements After Money Is Awarded

Students who receive summer research fellowships will be expected to: (1) write regularly to their Academic Advisor, (2) prepare a brief written report of the summer activities, and (3) prepare a financial accounting of the money. The student must send the written report and the financial account to the Chair of the Department and to the Graduate Secretary within six weeks of the student’s return to the Bloomington campus.