



### Graduate Student Conferences

The Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy is pleased to issue a request for graduate student-initiated proposals for conferences that will take place between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

Proposals will be evaluated on their intellectual merit and coherence, and their judicious use of funding. These conferences must take place at Columbia University. Conferences should highlight graduate student work and can focus on a single substantive or methodological topic or problem, on an event or policy, or on a set of intellectually related issues.

Proposals should also highlight the extent and type of faculty involvement. We encourage active involvement by faculty both as mentors and as participants on the conference program. Conferences that are collaborative and involve students or faculty from more than one Columbia Social Science department will be given special consideration. Funding requests can supplement departmental funding.

Please contact [ISERP](#) with any questions on this process.

**Eligibility:** Graduate students in [one of the six social science departments](#) in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University or SIPA are eligible to apply for ISERP Graduate Student Conference funding. At least one applicant per conference team must be a full-time PhD candidate.

**Application Guidance:** Funding can cover: travel and lodging; refreshments or meals; venue, materials, and publicity costs; and honoraria for external speakers only. Please note ISERP does not permit remuneration for student coordinators involved in organizing student-run conferences.

If awarded, the conference must be managed by the lead graduate student organizer's home department or another Columbia University center or institute. This unit should be noted in the proposal

Awardees are required to identify ISERP's sponsorship on all conference announcements and materials. A conference report, including the agenda, participant list, requested financial information, and relevant outcomes would be due in June 2026. [ISERP](#) is available to advise awardees in the planning stages.

**Applicants should submit:**

- A two-page proposal that describes the proposed conference, its goals and scholarly relevance, its structure and organization and note the conference's faculty mentor.
- A proposed list of speakers and panels.
- A description of the conference's intended audience, its size, and whether the conference is open to the University community and/or to the public. ISERP-sponsored Conferences should generally be open at least to the University community.
- A detailed budget and budget justification, which should include all sources of funding, utilizing [the budget sheet attached](#) to this call. Please download a copy to complete and submit with the application.
- A conference administration commitment: an email from your department chair, with the department DAAF copied, stating the department's commitment to administer the conference if awarded. If the

conference will be administered by a different department (or center, institute, etc.), the email commitment should come from that unit's chair/director.

- The department number and administrative contact for the unit administering the conference should be included in the commitment email.

*Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single PDF document to ISERP [here](#).*

**Duration:** One (1) Year

**Award Amount:** Up to \$15,000

**Application Deadline:** April 11, 2025

**Award Period:** July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026