

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:  
FY21 FUNDING  
PhD Economics Students  
Field or Experimental Research  
and  
Data Purchases**

The Program for Economic Research (PER) has open calls for FY2021 funding for Columbia PhD Economics students. The first call is to defray costs of Field or Experimental Research. The second call to defray costs of Data Purchase. Please visit <https://econ.columbia.edu/per/resources-and-support/> for additional information and applications.

Application Deadline: **December 1, 2020**

Funding Start Date: **January 15, 2021**

Please email any application questions to [econ-per@columbia.edu](mailto:econ-per@columbia.edu)

**Call for Field or Experimental Research Proposals**

PER announces an opportunity for Grant Awards of up to \$5,000 to defray the cost of field or experimental research. Proposals are evaluated on the intellectual merit and innovation of the proposed project, the grant's relationship to the proposed project, the project's organization and judicious use of funds, and the plausibility of the student's plan to scale the project. For exceptional proposals PER can consider grants of up to \$20,000 depending on matching contributions from advisors.

Eligibility

Ph.D. students enrolled as degree-seeking student in the Department of Economics who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply and serve as the corresponding principal investigator (PI) for the project. Visiting or temporary students are not eligible.

- Applicants must be full-time Ph.D. students in the Department of Economics.
- All applicants should have sufficient training to conduct research using current techniques and methods in economics.

- Ph.D. students should be working under the supervision of a Department of Economics faculty member with area expertise, and should have sufficient time to devote to completing the project before graduating. PER will not provide support to new projects being started by Ph.D. students during their last year of the program.

#### Submission of Your Expression of Interest

To apply for funding, please submit each of the following documents by Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

1. Online Application Form
2. A Recommendation Letter from the Project Advisor. This should include a statement that s/he will supervise the proposed project, support it intellectually, and the expected time commitment (i.e. weekly or monthly meetings). The recommendation letter should be emailed by the adviser directly to PER ([econ-per@columbia.edu](mailto:econ-per@columbia.edu)). Please ask your recommender to use the following name convention: last name of primary PI, last name of recommender, then “rec” (i.e. Smith Doe rec).
3. Expression of Interest packet, to be emailed by the applicant to the Program for Economic Research ([econ-per@columbia.edu](mailto:econ-per@columbia.edu)) as one PDF document. The file should use the following name convention: last name of primary PI, then F21\_EOI” (i.e. Smith F21\_EOI.pdf). The packet should include the following components:
  - CV of principal investigator (2 pages’ maximum)
  - Proposed detailed itemized budget. The budget should also be sent in Excel format.
  - If a revision of a previously submitted proposal: A cover letter describing how the reviewers’ feedback has been addressed within the revised proposal. (Cover letter excluded from proposal word count).
  - Research proposal. Maximum 8 pages total, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-in margins. The proposal should include the following components and each section should be shorter than the maximum section page limits specified below (total page count should be 8 pages, excluding appendix:
    - **Introduction and Background** (1.5 pages)
      - An outline of the research hypothesis and relevance of the Research Grant Goal (see above)
      - Very concise background / motivation
    - **Methodology and Research Approach** (6 pages)
      - Detailed description of methods and identification strategy (for experimental proposals intended to estimate a causal effect)
      - Detailed explanation of outcome variables, and their measurement
      - Explanation of the availability of data (for experimental proposals)

- If a randomized controlled trial: trial start and end dates, intervention start and end dates, proposed outcome(s), experimental design, whether the treatment is clustered, planned number of clusters, planned number of observations, and IRB information.
  - If the proposal is to work with a private firm: a convincing case that PER support is necessary and why the firm cannot fund the project itself. The PER seeks to avoid giving a competitive advantage to any particular private firm and may disqualify proposals on these grounds. Any distortion of the market towards a particular firm will significantly decrease the probability of the project being funded. The benefits to society beyond the private firm would have to be commensurately greater for a project that benefits a private firm to be considered favorably.
4. Timeline and Budget (1.5 pages)
- Project timeline
  - Budget narrative and cost effectiveness explanation
  - Description of research background and evidence of ability to complete the project
5. Appendix (Optional)
- This can contain tables, figures, survey questions/ instruments, protocols, devices used, etc. Appendix will not count towards page limit but many not include a continuation of the proposal narrative.

The Expression of Interest proposal document should describe the project in sufficient detail to allow reviewers to determine its feasibility and potential to identify new areas of methodological innovation or bridges different substantive domains. The introduction and background section is to be extremely concise. The proposal should focus on the basic practical details of the study and the proposed budget. For example, if the project includes a survey, description of survey content (and survey questions, if these have already been developed), and detail about the data collection approach should be provided; if the project involves a game, the game design should be described in sufficient detail for reviewers to judge it. The maximum length for the proposal is 8-pages, excluding Appendices, if any.

---

**Notes:**

- Research projects involving human subjects must obtain (and keep up to date) Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. If your project involves no intervention or interaction with human subjects, you must apply for exemption from the IRB. We will review and consider proposals that have not yet undergone IRB review, but please note that PER will not disburse funds until we have received a copy of your project's IRB approved protocol or IRB letter of exemption. We strongly encourage you to start the

process of obtaining IRB approval early.

- Grant recipients must provide brief report on project activities within one year to [econ-per@columbia.edu](mailto:econ-per@columbia.edu)
- Grant recipients should acknowledge PER's support in any papers, publications, or reports resulting from grant activities.

### **Call for Data Purchase Proposals**

PER will provide a one-time grant (up to \$5,000) to doctoral candidates who wish to purchase data sets for their Ph.D. research. To apply, a student must submit a 5-page research proposal detailing the use of data for his/her research, accompanied by letters of endorsement by two advisors.

The funding will be conditional on the research carried out not being co-authored with advisors; and the funding decision will take favorably into account a proposal that will make the data available for other students and has the advisors offering to match a share of the expense.

To apply for funding, please submit each of the following documents by Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

1. **Online Application Form**
2. **Five-Page Research Proposal** (detailing the use of data for research)
3. Two **Letters of Endorsement** by Department of Economics Faculty Members
4. **Budget Proposal / Expense Report**
5. **Invoices or contracts from data company**, along with company representative's contact details

---

#### **Notes:**

- Research projects involving human subjects must obtain (and keep up to date) Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. If your project involves no intervention or interaction with human subjects, you must apply for exemption from the IRB. We will review and consider proposals that have not yet undergone IRB review, but please note that PER will not disburse funds until we have received a copy of your project's IRB approved protocol or IRB letter of exemption. We strongly encourage you to start the process of obtaining IRB approval early.
- Grant recipients must provide brief report on project activities within one year to [econ-per@columbia.edu](mailto:econ-per@columbia.edu)
- Grant recipients should acknowledge PER's support in any papers, publications, or reports resulting from grant activities.