Dissertation Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students

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Today's Agenda

- Types of Funding

- Finding Funding Sources

- Timelines for Applying

- Research and Planning

- Resources

Types of Graduate School Funding

Fellowships

➢ Usually offered by private orgs or government. Typically funds research projects.

Grants

➢ Sum of money given for a particular purpose.

Prizes/Awards

➢ A major achievement that is recognized in some way; could be monetary.

Assistantships/Traineeships

➢ Type of education/training under a mentor/supervisor where the student is paid for specific work in a specific discipline. Funding can be from university or a grant.

Finding Funding Sources

- Networking – mentors, supervisors, colleagues, etc.

- Electronic Databases

- Scholarly Literature

- Agency searches
  - Government, corporations, foundations, professional/scholarly organizations

Searching for Funding

- SPIN Funding Database
  - https://libguides.ecu.edu/spin_funding
  - Library staff can help you
    - Jeanne Hoover, Joyner Library 252-328-2261
    - Kerry Sewell, Laupus Library, 252-744-0477

- ProFellow.com
  - Search their free database of more than 1300 funding awards for graduate study & professional development. Free accounts, a lot is free, some pay-for-service activities like webinars, consulting, etc. Get on their mailing list and check it out.

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What Is SPIN?

- SPIN Funding Opportunities Database ⬈

  SPIN, which stands for Sponsored Programs Information Network, is an extensive research funding opportunity database. SPIN contains over 40,000 opportunities from more than 10,000 sponsors. With SPIN, you can: Access funding information online from any browser, organize grant information in one convenient place, gain access to the largest keyword list, allowing for greater flexibility in your searches, quickly locate Limited Submission Opportunities with Federal or non-Federal programs, and locate all types of funding information—Fed Business Opps / Federal Register Guide.
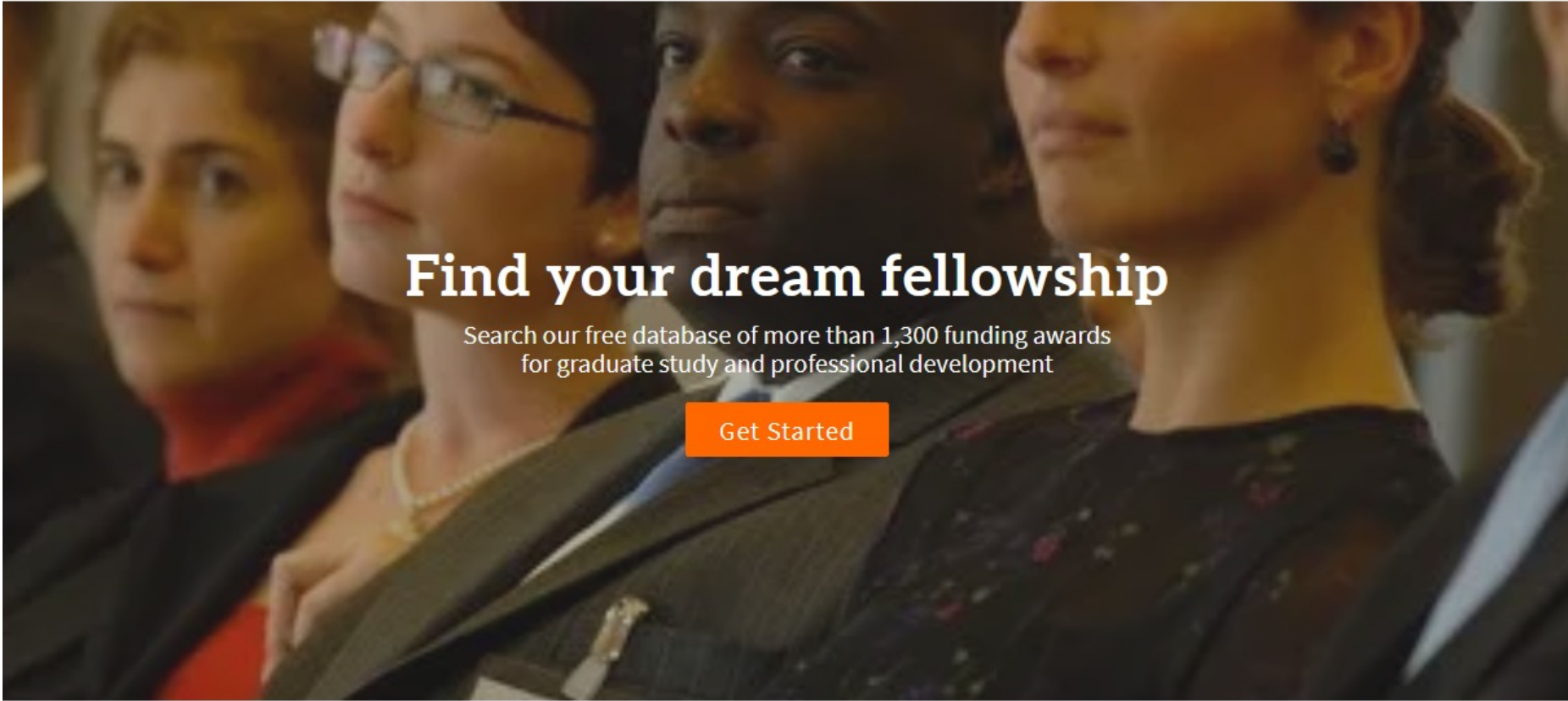
With SPIN, you can:

- Access funding information online, from any browser
- Organize grant information in one convenient place
- Gain access to the largest Keyword list, allowing for greater flexibility in your searches
- Quickly locate Limited Submission Opportunities, Federal or non-Federal programs
- Locate all types of funding information—Fed Business Opps / Federal Register Guide

If you have any questions about SPIN, please contact any one of us:

- Jeanne Hoover, Joyner Library 252-328-2261
- Kerry Sewell, Laupus Library, 252-744-0477

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Timelines

- Best Time to Search
  - What year in the program to start looking?
  - What year in the program to start applying?

- Discipline specific
  - Need to become familiar with the typical patterns of your discipline

Research & Planning

- **Start Early**
  - Learn about funding opportunities; they are discipline/program specific.
  - Consult advisor, committee members, program director, etc.
  - Ask about the best source of information for your specific field and research project?

- **Be Proactive**
  - Review the literature – who is funding published dissertations you are reading?
  - Develop an abstract or proposal and ask mentors about it.

Research & Planning

- **Set deadlines for**
    1. Writing portions of the grant
    2. Developing timelines
    3. Obtaining recommendations
    3. Attending trainings, if needed

Research & Planning

- Spend time learning more about proposals & writing guidelines

- Read submitted proposals of previous dissertation students

- Talk with past winners; search "awards made" databases

- Attend training sessions from the funding agencies, if available

Resources

- Attend the Office for Faculty Excellence (OFE) professional development workshops, specifically the Grant Writing Series.
https://ofe.ecu.edu/office-for-faculty-excellence/grant-writing-series/

- Use campus resources to improve your submissions
  - Research librarians
  - ECU University Writing Center
  - Faculty
  - Grant officers/offices

Questions?