

PhD Funding for Methods Schools

Purpose:

Funding to attend external methods schools is intended to enable PhD students to gain methods training beyond what is offered by UBC's Department of Political Science, other UBC departments, or other local institutions covered by the Western Dean's Agreement (e.g., SFU). This should be training that students and their supervisors regard as vital for their doctoral research. Supplemental methods training might include, for example, attendance at the ICPSR (quantitative methods) summer school at the University of Michigan or the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Doctoral students who have entered candidacy (i.e. completed courses and exams and defended their prospectus) and who have a demonstrable need for additional methods training beyond what is offered to them at UBC (through political science courses or through other departments) may be eligible for funding **to attend a methods school to supplement their UBC methods training**, subject to available funds. Departmental funding is generally limited to one methods summer school opportunity per student. Students who wish to attend more than one summer school should look for external funding sources, including scholarships offered by methods institutes.

In order to use our available resources as efficiently as possible, students applying for methods-school funding should:

- ┆ Have taken all available quantitative methods courses that are taught in-house (including POLI 574 when it is offered) and before they attend a quantitative methods summer school.
- ┆ Exhaust all relevant offerings by the Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, or other UBC Departments and by SFU's Political Science Department.
- ┆ Be planning to receive training that is *not* offered at UBC.

Application process

Please complete the methods application form:

https://ubc.ca/1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NLeDa87KpLAOXP by **Dec. 15, 2020** (or the first business day thereafter) and provide the following information:

- 1) The name, dates, and location of the methods school the student would like to attend

- 2) A one-paragraph explanation of how *precisely* the methods to be acquired at this methods school are required for completion of the dissertation. This justification will receive careful scrutiny as we have limited funds to dispense and need to be sure that we are spending them in the most productive way possible.
- 3) A short statement from their supervisor indicating an endorsement of the student's justification. (Thus, you must send your justification to your supervisor to review.)
- 4) A list of all graduate methods courses taken at UBC to date.
- 5) Total estimated cost and with a cost breakdown for:
 - Accommodation
 - Flight
 - Meals
 - Other

Only complete applications will be considered.

Other Procedures

Within 1 month of their return from a methods school, students must complete a brief report on how the training received contributed to their skill set and research. This report should be sent to Josephine Calazan (josephine.calazan@ubc.ca) and to the student's supervisor.

Note: For 2020-21, we strongly encourage students to explore opportunities for online or remote methods training, conference participation, and fieldwork or data-gathering. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated UBC, provincial, and federal travel restrictions, students may not be able to travel to conferences or methods institutes or for research purposes in the coming months. For any approved funding applications in 2020W, the release of funding for travel and accommodation purposes will be conditional on a relaxation of all relevant restrictions. Also, we will not be able to reimburse the non-refunded portion of any cancelled travel or accommodation. Thus, students should not make any non-refundable travel or accommodation bookings unless they are willing to bear the non-refunded costs themselves or have secured travel insurance that will cover pandemic-related cancellation risks.