

Vanderbilt University
Department of Economics
Kirk Dornbush Summer Research Grants 2010

The Dornbush Summer Research Grant Program is a research competition for Economics Ph.D. students. The Department of Economics will award approximately four summer awards to individual students who are working on a specific research project. These projects are under faculty supervision, but the funds are not intended to support work as a research assistant. Awards typically provide \$3,000, paid in three installments as follows: one-third payment of the grant at the end of June, one-third at the end of July, and the last installment upon submission of the final product. Taxes may apply.

Who may apply? Students who have been in the Ph.D. program for less than seven semesters are eligible. Applicants should not be supported with other College funds or teaching in the College during the term of the award. Students may receive this award no more than twice during their career at Vanderbilt.

Proposal due date and location: **Friday, March 5, 2010.** Provide three copies of the proposal to Ms. Kathleen Finn (Calhoun 415). A letter of support from the faculty member supervising the work must also be sent to Kathleen (directly from the faculty member) by the deadline.

Submission details: The project proposal should not exceed two pages in length (typed double-spaced, no less than 11-point, margins of at least one inch) describing the proposed research. The proposal should be a well-written description of new research, either extending current or recent work or proposing a new topic. A bibliography of, at most, one additional page may be attached. Individuals may not submit more than one research proposal. Proposals must stipulate the faculty member who has indicated his or her willingness to read and evaluate the resulting research paper (see grant requirements).

Grant requirements: Three copies of a paper containing completed results of the proposed research are to be provided by the end of August to Ms. Kathleen Finn, Calhoun 415. Shortly thereafter, at the discretion of the DGS, grant recipients may be scheduled to provide a 30-minute “brown bag” seminar covering their research results. It is expected that the paper will be well-executed, well-organized, and clearly explicated.

Proposal evaluation procedure: The Committee on Graduate Studies will review all proposals and notify grant recipients before the end of April. The Committee intends to use different criteria for students at different stages in the program. A proposal for a literature review, which might result in a successful application for a student who has just finished the first year of the Ph.D. program, would not be a successful proposal for students further advanced in the program. More advanced students are expected to propose original research (and first-year students are encouraged to also propose original research). In addition to the proposal and the letter, the Committee may take into account performance in course work, progress towards the dissertation (if applicable), and previous academic performance for first-year students.

Residency: Grant recipients are not required to be in residence during the summer.

Note: Grant recipients failing to adhere to the above requirements, or providing a poorly executed paper, risk disqualification from future summer grant funding opportunities.