IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows Program
Academic Year 2014-2015

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Policy & Social Research is pleased to announce the IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows Program for the 2014-15 Academic Year. The program is helping to develop the next generation of KU interdisciplinary social science scholars by providing graduate students with training and support in interdisciplinary social science research and by creating a community of graduate students across the social sciences to support each other at KU and in the future.

Program Overview: Fellows will meet approximately twice each month throughout the academic year to share research plans and findings, gain knowledge of interdisciplinary social science research methods, skills, and analysis, share experiences and knowledge, and complete a research project associated with their graduate studies. Regular attendance is expected, as active participation will strengthen the program. Lunch or refreshments will be provided at meetings.

Individual Project Information: The project is a discrete and achievable outcome that will contribute to the Fellow’s professional development and success. The project must be approved by the Fellow’s advisor and be consistent with the educational program of the Fellow. The project will be developed and refined over the course of the program but at the time of application, it is expected that the project may still be rough and unsettled. However, by the program conclusion, the project should be complete and ready for distribution or dissemination, depending on the nature of the project. In order to achieve this, Fellows are expected to work on their projects outside of the scheduled sessions.

Examples of projects may include:
• converting a paper prepared for a class into a manuscript for publication
• developing a research project, including methods and background research
• completing an application for external funding of a research project

Faculty Sponsor: Steven Maynard-Moody, Director of IPSR and Professor, School of Public Affairs & Administration, is the faculty sponsor.

Cohort Size: 6 to 8 doctoral students

Schedule & Topics: The group will meet approximately six times each semester for 1.5 hours. During these sessions, Fellows will learn research skills and have an opportunity to discuss and develop their projects. The program will conclude with a presentation session late in the spring semester, described more fully below. The meeting schedule will be set based on the schedules of the Fellows. Below is a list of potential topics for discussion purposes. The final schedule, topics, and sequence will be determined based on needs identified by Fellows and based on the project goals. For 2013-2014, topics included:
• Conducting Interdisciplinary Social Science Research
• Developing & Conducting Focus Groups
• Developing Surveys
• Exploring External Research Funding
• Interviewing for Academic Positions
• Text Mining Using SAS
• Using Atlast.ti for Qualitative Data
• Using Qualtrics for Survey Data

Support: IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows will have available to them the resources of IPSR for proposal and project planning, development, and research. Fellows may apply for up to $500 to support research expenses or travel associated with their Fellows project.

Visit the IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows site for more information about the program including a list of 2013-14 participants and their projects:
http://ipsr.dept.ku.edu/about/gradfellows/
Attendance Requirements: Regular attendance is expected. Active participation adds to the strength of the program. If a Fellow misses three sessions over the course of the program, the Fellow may be removed from the program at the discretion of the IPSR Director after discussion with the student’s advisor. Fellows are responsible for notifying the IPSR Director (or designee) in advance of absences.

Completion: The program will conclude with Fellows project presentations to graduate advisors, IPSR Faculty Affiliates, and other social science graduate students. A Fellow will complete the program by attending the sessions and presenting at the presentation session. While up to three absences are allowable, the presentation session cannot be missed. If a Fellow successfully completes the program, he or she will be awarded the title of IPSR Doctoral Research Fellow.

Participation Following Completion: IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows, having successfully completed the program, are invited to attend sessions in subsequent years while enrolled at KU to refresh their skills. Fellows are expected to informally mentor future Fellows so that skills and knowledge can be shared between cohorts.

Recruitment: IPSR Faculty Affiliates will nominate potential Fellows. The faculty affiliates will be informed about the program through email and announcement at the Spring 2014 IPSR events. Students may also self-nominate with the support of an IPSR Faculty Affiliate.

Program Eligibility: Eligible Fellows will:

- be a KU Ph.D. student
- be a student in a social science discipline or be actively engaged in research with a social science perspective
- be engaged in research with an IPSR Faculty Affiliate
- be interested in interdisciplinary research
- have permission and support to participate from their graduate advisor
- have an identified research project

Nomination and Application Procedures: IPSR Faculty Affiliates who wish to nominate a student should email IPSR Associate Director Susan Mercer (smercerc@ku.edu) a brief statement outlining the nominee’s suitability for this interdisciplinary program by May 9, 2014 (1-page limit). Students may self-nominate with the support of an IPSR Faculty Affiliate. Nominated students are invited to submit an application by noon on Monday, May 19. To be considered, applications must include:

- CV (2-page limit)
- statement of interest in interdisciplinary social science research, integrating interest in this program and a description of the proposed or current project (roughly 300 to 500 words)
- endorsement from Ph.D. advisor (required only if different from the nominator, 1-page limit)
- endorsement from IPSR Faculty Affiliate (required only if self-nominated, 1-page limit)

Selection Procedures & Criteria: A group of current Doctoral Research Fellows along with the IPSR Director and Associate Director, will review nomination materials and select a cohort of 6 to 8 doctoral students for 2014-15.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the merit of submitted materials as demonstrated by:

- interest in interdisciplinary research
- interest in developing social science research skills
- development of project idea
- strength of support from faculty sponsor

Additional Information: Susan Mercer, Associate Director, IPSR, 605 Blake Hall, smercerc@ku.edu. http://ipsr.dept.ku.edu/about/gradfellows/