Program in the Study of the Imagination
Graduate Student Grant Competition
2003-2004

Purpose:

PSI Graduate Student Grants are intended to fund creative projects that explore and inform our understanding of the imagination as the engine behind intellectual and artistic creativity. The human imagination (phantasia, fantasy) has long been understood by philosophers as the mechanism that classifies sense perception, stores it as memory and ultimately drives innovation. The Program in the Study of the Imagination (PSI) is a cross-school initiative at Northwestern University; its principal aim is to study the history and foster the practice of the imagination.

Three grants of $2000 each will be awarded in the three areas of history, performance and technology of the imagination. We invite proposals for projects that investigate the history and/or the uses of the imagination, with topics ranging from early modern art to artificial intelligence; these may be scholarly articles, performances, exhibitions, scientific experiments or may take other forms. Students are welcome to propose projects that would normally fall outside of their regular program of study; for example, a student of history or computer science may propose the production of a short film, while a student of music performance might plan a publishable article drawing on archival research.

Winners will be expected to participate in a campus event showcasing their projects to be held in May 2004.

Eligibility:

Northwestern University graduate students in the following schools/programs are eligible to apply: the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and Social Policy, the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, the PhD program in the School of Music, the School of Speech, Advanced Medical Education, and programs administered by the Graduate School in the Life Sciences. Students enrolled in the following interdisciplinary and center-based degree programs are also eligible: Counseling Psychology, Liberal Studies, Literature, Management and Organizations and Sociology, Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, Medical Scientist Training Program, and Public Health.

Application information:

Applications should include a 750-word abstract describing the proposed project; a cover letter outlining clearly how the proposed project investigates the history and/or uses of the imagination; a projected budget; one academic letter of recommendation; and a brief letter from the student's department chairperson indicating departmental endorsement. If the proposed project involves the use of human or animal research subjects, the applicant must comply with University guidelines; a copy of the approval or exemption from the Institutional Review Board must be submitted with the application. All projects involving the use of chemical, biological, or radiation processes, equipment or technologies, must also
comply with University guidelines; applicants must submit a certified Chemical, Biological and Radiation Safety Review Form with the application.

**Deadline:**

All application materials are due January 15, 2004. Please send application materials in triplicate to:

Program in the Study of Imagination  
c/o Professor Claudia Swan  
Kresge Hall 3-400  
1880 Campus Drive  
Evanston, IL 60208-2208

**Award Notification:**

Notification will be made by February 15, 2004.

**Criteria for selection:**

In conjunction with a panel of NU faculty members, the directors of the Program in the Study of the Imagination will review project proposals and select winners. Projects will be judged on the basis of feasibility and potential contribution to the history and/or practice of the imagination. Winners will be expected to participate in a campus event showcasing their projects to be held in May 2004.

**Restrictions:**

Examples of allowable expenses for project budgets include the acquisition of research materials or artistic supplies, essential travel, renting space (as for an exhibition or performance), or renting or purchasing special equipment. Non-allowable expenses include tuition fees and travel to conferences or professional meetings. Awards will not be granted for retroactive payments.

Additional information can be found at psi.northwestern.edu. Contact psi@northwestern.edu with questions.