Visual Studies Summer Research Grants

The Visual Studies Graduate Certificate Program (VSGC) offers a limited number of summer research grants to USC PhD students on a competitive basis. Preference is given to applicants who are enrolled in the certificate program and are active in the VSRI community, to projects that engage visual culture through multiple disciplinary lenses, and to research plans that will incur travel expenses to archives. Pre-dissertation research is eligible for support, particularly if students demonstrate how it will enhance applications for external fellowships in the future. Proposals are reviewed by a committee of Visual Studies Research Institute affiliated faculty. We recognize that there may be challenges both anticipated and unanticipated to research travel and will also consider proposals with non-travel expenses that will advance your dissertation research or assist with completion of a publication.

To apply:

Send a 2-page project proposal, a budget (not to exceed $2,000) detailing your research plan and expenses, a CV, and a letter of support from your primary advisor. Please also list other possible funding sources for which you have applied this summer and any VSGC funding you have received in the past. Complete applications are due on **March 8, 2024**. Please email all materials (in one PDF if possible) to vsri@usc.edu. Advisors may email letters of support directly to vsri@usc.edu.

The Anne Friedberg Memorial Grant will go to an outstanding applicant whose project demonstrates an interdisciplinary approach and will include a stipend of $2,500. The winner will give a lecture in spring 2025. Please specify in your proposal if you would like to be considered for the Anne Friedberg Memorial Grant and demonstrate the need for additional funds in your budget.

For more information on visual studies courses, grants, and public programs at USC, please visit https://dornsife.usc.edu/vsgc/ and http://dornsife.usc.edu/vsri/.