**ERNEST BECKER RESEARCH GRANTS**

**Application Guide & Form**

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# **Overview**

## Ernest Becker Research Grants

With generous support from the Ernest Becker Foundation, ISSEP is proud to honor the legacy of Ernest Becker by offering the Ernest Becker Research Grant. This research grant is designed to support well-designed and well-powered research that expressly builds on the work and ideas of Ernest Becker. To learn more about Becker’s contributions, visit [ErnestBecker.org](https://ernestbecker.org) or check out our Feature article on [Becker’s work and impact on the science of existential psychology](https://www.issep.org/article/issep-honors-becker-legacy).

Projects may use quantitative and/or qualitative methods, may rely on primary data (e.g., original studies) or secondary data (e.g., meta-analyses), and may be basic or applied science.

## Budget

The maximum budget that may be requested is fifteen thousand dollars (USD $15,000) per project.

At least one project will be selected for funding each cycle.

## Deadlines

The deadline to submit applications for the summer cycle is June 30.

The deadline to submit applications for the winter cycle is November 15.

## Eligibility

Applicants for a research grant…

1. Must be a member of ISSEP at the time of submission and review of applications.
2. Must obtain approval from their relevant institutional review board (IRB) prior to collecting data.
3. Must agree to author a brief article for ISSEP, upon completion of the project, to inform the ISSEP membership and public readership about the funded study’s purpose, design, outcomes, and implications.
4. Are strongly encouraged to submit the project for presentation at a future ISSEP Existential Psychology Conference event (e.g., the Existential Psychology SPSP Preconference).

## Application Materials

Complete the form at the end of this document including the following sections.

1. Applicant information
2. Attach CVs
3. Eligibility & Agreements
4. Project Title & Abstract
5. Project Description
6. Relevance to Ernest Becker’s Work and Ideas
7. Proposed Timeline
8. Detailed Budget

## How to apply

To apply, compile the completed application form and CVs into a single PDF and send that PDF as an email attachment to [info@issep.org](mailto:info@issep.org) with the subject line “Ernest Becker Research Grant Application.”

# **Review Criteria**

The grant application review panel will evaluate each proposal according to the following ten criteria:

1. Quality of the abstract.

* To what degree does the abstract clearly communicate the research question, hypotheses, method, planned analyses, and potential significance of the project?

1. Quality of research question and theoretical ideas.

* To what extent are the research question(s) clearly stated, based on a reasonably sophisticated command of the topic, and are they sufficiently novel/interesting?

1. Quality of purpose/goal of the study.

* To what extent are there clear, valuable goals for what the study will help us learn?

1. Quality of research design and methodology.

* To what degree are the research method (qualitative, quantitative) and design (interview, experiment, correlation, longitudinal) sufficiently detailed and appropriate for addressing the research question?

1. Quality of planned analyses.

* To what degree are the planned analysis techniques (thematic, regression, ANOVA, SEM, HLM, etc.) sufficiently detailed and appropriate for the research question?

1. Relevance to Ernest Becker’s Work & Ideas.

* To what extent will this research explore the work and ideas of Ernest Becker?

1. Reasonable timeline.

* To what extent is the project timeline a reasonable expectation, and does it seem as though the project can actually be completed within 12-18 months?

1. Appropriate budget request.

* To what degree do the items in the budget seem *necessary* and do the dollar amounts for each item seem to be *reasonable* and *well-justified*?

1. Capacity to generatively stimulate further work.

* To what extent does it seem this study would actually stimulate future research on the topic, either by these or other researchers?

1. Capacity for success.

* To what degree do the PI and Co-PI(s) have a relevant track record of successful completions or demonstrated capability for success?

# **Application Form**

Red asterisk (\*) items are required; partially completed submissions will not be considered.

## I. Applicant information

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | \*PI First Name |  |
| 2 | \*PI Last Name |  |
| 3 | \*PI Position |  |
| 4 | \*PI Department |  |
| 5 | \*PI Institution/Organization |  |
| 6 | \*PI Email Address |  |
| 7 | \*PI Phone Number |  |
| 8 | Co-PI First Name |  |
| 9 | Co-PI Last Name |  |
| 10 | Co-PI Position |  |
| 11 | Co-PI Department |  |
| 12 | Co-PI Institution/Organization |  |
| 13 | Co-PI Email Address |  |
| 14 | Co-PI Phone Number |  |

[add additional Co-PIs as needed]

## II. Attach CVs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | \*Attach an abbreviated CV (4 pages max) for each PI and Co-PI (required). |

## III. Eligibility & Agreements

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Response |
| 16 | \*PI is currently a member of ISSEP – Yes or No? (must be yes) |  |
| 17 | \*If awarded, the recipient agrees to obtain approval from their relevant institutional review board (IRB) prior to collecting data. – Yes or No? (must be yes) |  |
| 18 | \*If awarded, the recipient agrees to author a brief article for ISSEP, upon completion of the project, to inform the ISSEP membership and public readership about the funded study’s purpose, design, outcomes, and implications. – Yes or No? (must be yes) |  |
| 19 | \*If awarded, the recipient is aware that they are strongly encouraged to submit the project for presentation at a future ISSEP Existential Psychology Conference event (e.g., the Existential Psychology SPSP Preconference). – Yes or No? (must be yes) |  |

## IV. Project Title & Abstract

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 20 | \*Project Title (50 word max) |
|  | *Type project title here…* |
| 21 | \*Abstract (200 word max) |
|  | *Type abstract here…* |

## V. Project Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 22 | \*Research Question and Theoretical Introduction (750 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 23 | \*Purpose and Goals of the Study (150 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 24 | \*Research Design & Methodology (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 25 | \*Sample Size Planning & Data Collection Planning (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 26 | \*Planned Analyses (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |

## VI. Relevance to Ernest Becker’s Work & Ideas

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 27 | Please explain how the project builds on the work and ideas of Ernest Becker. To learn about Becker’s contributions, visit [ErnestBecker.org](https://ernestbecker.org) or our Feature article about [Becker’s work and impact on the science of existential psychology](https://www.issep.org/article/issep-honors-becker-legacy). (500 words max) |
|  | *Type explanation here…* |

## VII. Proposed Timeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | \*Expected Start Date (Month/Day/Year): |  |
| 29 | \*Expected End Date (Month/Day/Year): |  |
| 30 | \*Proposed Timeline Narrative (or outline).  Describe when each project tasks/events will happen, from start to finish. Aim for a 12-18 months timeline. (300 words max) | |
|  | *Type timeline narrative/outline here…* | |

## VIII. Detailed Budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 31 | \*Total Amount of Funding Requested (up to $15,000 max): |  |
| 32 | \*Itemized Budget (500 words max) | |
|  | *Type budget narrative/outline here…*  *Reminder: Grant monies may be used to pay participants, pay research assistants, purchase equipment and supplies, and travel to research sites; but they may not be used for salary, stipends, or travel to conferences, and no indirect costs will be granted to institutions.* | |