**ISSEP RESEARCH GRANTS**

**Application Guide & Form**

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# **Overview**

## Four Research Grant Tracks

ISSEP offers a variety of research grants to further stimulate research advances in the science of existential psychology. Projects may be relevant to any one or more of our four research grant tracks:

1. General Existential Psychology Research Grants
2. Cross-Cultural Existential Psychology Research Grants
3. International Existential Psychology Research Grants
4. Interdisciplinary Existential Psychology Research Grants

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.

Detailed descriptions are provided on the following page.

## Budget

The maximum budget that may be requested is three thousand (USD $3,000) per project.

Multiple projects will be selected for funding.

## Deadline

The deadline to submit applications is November 15th each year.

## Eligibility

Applicants for a research grant…

1. Must be a member of ISSEP at the time of submission and review of applications.
2. Must not have previously received one of our research grants.
3. Must obtain approval from their relevant institutional review board (IRB) prior to collecting data.
4. 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.
5. 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 One or More Grant Tracks
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 “ISSEP Research Grant Application.”

# **Four Research Grant Tracks**

## ISSEP General Existential Psychology Research Grants

ISSEP’s General Research Grants support research advances in the science of existential psychology, generally. These projects may apply the science of existential psychology to any aspect of “being” and “becoming,” including such key existential concerns as: freedom, authenticity, and moral responsibility; awareness of mortality; culture, self, and identity; isolation, uncertainty, and shared reality; the quest for meaning and purpose in life; etc. These projects may study any cultural context, may be conducted by researchers located in any nation/region, and do not need to be interdisciplinary.

## ISSEP Cross-Cultural Existential Psychology Research Grants

It has become clear that the field of psychological science has been over-representing the cultures of Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) nations in its theory and research, despite the fact that most people in the world are not WEIRD (Henrich et al., 2010; Rad et al., 2018). This is almost certainly the case in the science of existential psychology as well. Thus, ISSEP’s Cross-Cultural Research Grants support projects that adopt a cross-cultural theoretical and methodological approach to the science of existential psychology, including participants in non-WEIRD cultural contexts.

## ISSEP International Existential Psychology Research Grants

The most prominent journals in psychological science have published work almost exclusively (70%+) by researchers based in North America and about population samples in North America, despite that regional context representing less than 5% of the world’s population (Arnett, 2008; Thalmayer et al., 2021). This is almost certainly the case in the science of existential psychology as well. Thus, ISSEP’s International Research Grants support projects led by research teams based at institutions outside of North America.

## ISSEP Interdisciplinary Existential Psychology Research Grants

Interdisciplinary engagement is sure to enrich the field’s ideas and methodological approaches. Thus, ISSEP’s Interdisciplinary Research Grants support projects that blend the theory and methods of existential psychology with those of other disciplines, e.g., developmental psychology, cognitive and affective science, sociology, anthropology, cultural evolution, history, political science, communications, economics, business studies, sports and athletics, religious studies, and philosophy, among others.

## Common elements

Projects in all tracks 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. These grants are intended to fund relatively inexpensive but well-designed and well-powered studies that have the potential to contribute to the literature while also setting the stage for a larger research program on the topic in the future. These grants are also intended to provide initial funding to help researchers successfully request larger grants from other agencies. Thus, these grants are intended to help plant the seeds that will grow into important new areas of research in existential psychology.

# **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 one or more grant tracks.

* To what extent is this research relevant to one (or more) of our four research grant tracks?

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 | \*PI has previously won an ISSEP Research Grant – Yes or No? | |  |
| 17a. | | If yes, in which grant track? (General, Cross-Cultural, International, or Interdisciplinary) |  |
| 18 | \*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) | |  |
| 19 | \*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) | |  |
| 20 | \*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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 21 | \*Project Title (50 word max) |
|  | *Type project title here…* |
| 22 | \*Abstract (150 word max) |
|  | *Type abstract here…* |

## V. Project Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 23 | \*Research Question and Theoretical Introduction (750 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 24 | \*Purpose and Goals of the Study (150 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 25 | \*Research Design & Methodology (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 26 | \*Sample Size Planning & Data Collection Planning (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |
| 27 | \*Planned Analyses (500 words max) |
|  | *Type here…* |

## VIII. Relevance to One or More Grant Tracks

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 28 | \*ISSEP General Existential Psychology Research Grant Track.  Please provide a brief explanation about the significance of this project for advancing the science of existential psychology. (300 words max) |
|  | *Type explanation here…* |
| 29 | ISSEP Cross-Cultural Existential Psychology Research Grant Track.  Please explain how the project adopts a cross-cultural theoretical and/or methodological approach to the science of existential psychology, and if it will include participant samples in non-WEIRD cultural contexts. If not applicable, write “N/A.” (300 words max) |
|  | *Type explanation here…* |
| 30 | ISSEP International Existential Psychology Research Grant Track.  Please explain how the research team is based at institutions outside of North America. In the event of a team member’s multiple institutional appointments, please clarify the primary appointment and nation of residence. If not applicable, write “N/A.” (300 words max) |
|  | *Type explanation here…* |
| 31 | ISSEP Interdisciplinary Existential Psychology Research Grant Track.  Please explain how the project blends the theory and methods of the science of existential psychology with identifiable theory and method of at least one other discipline (e.g., communications, business, anthropology). If not applicable, write “N/A.” (300 words max) |
|  | *Type explanation here…* |

## VI. Proposed Timeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 32 | \*Expected Start Date (Month/Day/Year): |  |
| 33 | \*Expected End Date (Month/Day/Year): |  |
| 34 | \*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…* | |

## VII. Detailed Budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 35 | \*Total Amount of Funding Requested (up to $3,000 max): |  |
| 36 | \*Itemized Budget (300 words max) | |
|  | *Type budget narrative/outline here…*  *Reminder: Grant monies may be used to pay participants, pay research assistants, purchase 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.* | |