



CSAE Student Grants Scheme

Summary

CSAE is able to provide small grants to support student fieldwork in development economics. These grants are designed to support graduate students in development economics (whether at the Department of Economics, Department of International Development (ODID/QEH) or the Blavatnik School of Government). We anticipate that most grants will be no larger than £2,000 each, and we will be reluctant to fund anything above £5,000.

Applying for a grant

To apply for a grant, please e-mail simon.quinn@economics.ox.ac.uk and rose.page@economics.ox.ac.uk (subject line: “CSAE Student Grant application”). You should discuss the application with your supervisor first, and you should ‘cc’ your supervisor to the application e-mail. There is no need for your supervisor to write a reference.

There is no set format for an application. We anticipate the application to be about three pages long, and should provide a brief outline of the research idea (including power calculations, where appropriate), should discuss eligibility and academic quality (see further below), and should be accompanied by a detailed budget (including budgeting for reverse VAT, where appropriate).

There is no set deadline for an application; you should submit your application whenever you are ready (and well in advance of your proposed research). We will consider applications received on a ‘gathered field’ basis.

Research eligibility

Grants are intended to support research – for example, travel to developing countries to collect data, to conduct an experiment, *etc* (see further below). We will not support:

- (i) Costs of attending conferences or ‘boot camps’ *etc* (though other schemes may support this – for example, the George Webb Medley Fund).
- (ii) Applications for costs already incurred; please apply well before you spend! As we will consider only ‘gathered field’ applications, as a rule of thumb you should apply at least four months before incurring your costs.
- (iii) Equipment costs (for example, computer purchases).

We will be very reluctant to support costs that could reasonably be borne through other sources (for example, if the proposed research involves working as part of a much larger funded project). We also expect you to show evidence that you have tried or are trying to use funds that may also support you, whether out of entitlement or competitively (College funds, George Webb Medley Fund, specific research funds linked to your scholarship).

To be eligible, research must form part of your graduate dissertation, and must relate to development economics (whether in Africa or elsewhere).

The scheme is primarily directed at D.Phil students. Masters students (*i.e.* students on the M.Phil in Economics, the M.Sc in Economics for Development and the Master of Public Policy) may also apply; however, we anticipate supporting substantially smaller grants in the case of masters students, given the limited scope of a masters research project relative to a doctoral project.

Assessing grant applications

Applications will be assessed by a CSAE grants committee. In doing so, we will use the following guiding principles:

- (i) Above all, the purpose of the scheme is to support innovative research of high academic quality. (For this reason, there should be no presumption that students are entitled to receive small grants.)
- (ii) Normally, students will not receive more than one grant during the course of the D.Phil.
- (iii) We are very open to a wide range of different research methodologies within development economics (for example, field-based data collection, qualitative or descriptive research, archival research, data purchase, small field experiments, lab-in-field experiments, *etc.*)