

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS ABOUT WRITING A SOCIOLOGY THESIS: Funding and Human Subjects Research Approval

Human subjects research approval and funding are two things to think about as you prepare to write a senior thesis.

Committee on the Use of Human Subjects

All research on human subjects must be approved by Harvard's Committee on the Use of Human Subjects.

Some research projects may fall under an expedited review process, while others may require full review. Some projects are exempt from committee review. To determine whether or not your project requires approval, please email CUHS at cuhs@fas.harvard.edu or call 617-496-2847 and you will be put in touch with an IRB Administrator who will assist you. You may also consult the CUHS Events Calendar for office drop-in hours (1414 Mass Ave).

If your project does require human subject's approval, do not send the info via email! Visit the website for information on the new online protocol, ESTR.

Ethics training is required for everyone who conducts human subjects research. The CUHS will offer training sessions in the spring (TBD – please visit their website) or you may opt to do an online training. We highly recommend you attend one of the training sessions, however, as the online training takes more time.

NOTE: Do not begin to gather data—even recruiting subjects—until you have received full approval!!

Finally, feel free to reach out to CUHS. They are eager to help undergraduates navigate the approval process!

Harvard College Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

The Harvard College Undergraduate Research and Fellowships ([URAF](#)) website offers much information for those undertaking research projects. The "[Finding Research Funding](#)" page has information about **CARAT**, the Central Application for Research and Travel, as well as the **Harvard College Research Program** and other funding sources. The [Harvard College Funding Sources Database](#) is a searchable database that contains many funding options. **REMEMBER TO CHECK DEADLINES!** Please note that URAF has walk-in advising hours from 2-4pm M-F at 77 Dunster Street, 2nd floor.

Please note that many past writers have received funding through the Harvard College Research Program ([HCRP](#)). The HCRP supports student-initiated scholarly research and creative endeavors undertaken with faculty guidance during the academic year and summer.

Upcoming HCRP Deadlines:

Spring term funding: 5pm, Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Summer funding: 5pm, Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Fall 2016 dates: TBD

[Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Thesis Research Grants](#)

The Center welcomes applications from students in various disciplines whose research involves important international, transnational, global, and comparative national issues that may address contemporary or historical topics, including rigorous policy analysis, as well as the study of specific countries and regions outside the United States.

[Dean's Summer Research Awards](#)

The Dean's Summer Research Awards give rising seniors who receive financial aid the opportunity to devote the summer to thesis research. The awards provide students who have already received an HCRP grant with an additional grant to cover the summer savings requirement of their financial aid packages.