

DONOR REPORT

PhD Summer
Research Grants
2018-2019

Our summer research grants programme aims to encourage innovative research on the United States and to support students pursuing postgraduate research on topics related to the Centre's overall mission of promoting internationally-oriented scholarship on America's changing role in the world.



Ariel Perkins:

Research Project: Bowling with Guns: Grievance, resentment, and political action in the militia movement and American right

"The Summer Research Grant programme is a wonderful opportunity for young researchers to develop grant work experience"

Jacklyn Majnemer:

Research Project: Understanding Reneging: Why Allies Withdraw from Dual-Key Nuclear Sharing Commitments

"I believe that the grant has greatly improved the quality of my PhD thesis"

Marral Shamshiri-Fard:

Research Project: Resisting Marxism and Imperialism in the Persian Gulf: Political Alliances and Revolutionary Transnationalism 1965-1978

"I benefited from the grant both in terms of conducting my own research and also in expanding my academic network."

"It is necessary and important to financially support students as they undertake research, and this grant is very generous and gave me the freedom to choose how I spend it without excessive paperwork." - Marral

Supporting academic excellence

The grant recipients gained important skills from the Summer Grant scheme, as they felt more prepared for writing grant proposals, conducting fieldwork, presenting their research to others and taking part in media interviews.

In addition to being beneficial academically, students felt that the grant programme had a positive impact on other parts of their lives as well. Through the process, students gained confidence in themselves, felt more connected to the LSE community and enjoyed being exposed to the diversity of American culture and people.



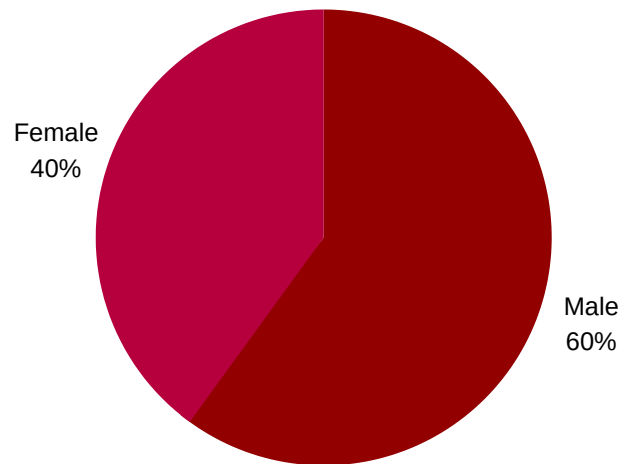
"Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the US Centre Summer Research Grant programme. I have thoroughly enjoyed every part of the process - which is not something you normally say about grants!"- Ariel

Benefiting beyond PhD:s

All three grant recipients felt that they had been given an amazing opportunity to conduct in-depth research projects that were not only important for their PhD research but also something they would not have been able to accomplish without the grant funding.

Beyond just the summer grant projects, all students felt that the grant had improved the quality of their PhD research as well as their academic prospects after PhDs.

Applicants' gender



Successful first year

For the inaugural year of the PhD Summer Grant programme, the US Centre received 10 applications from 8 LSE Departments. All three grant recipients commented on how much they enjoyed being part of the programme and how grateful they were to the donor. They were particularly pleased with how easy the whole grant process was, how much freedom the grant allowed for their projects and the excellent support provided by the US Centre.

The US Centre PhD Summer Research Grant programme also gained wider interest from the LSE Community, as grant recipient Ariel Perkins was interviewed for an [LSE Alumni feature](#) and the [LSE Researcher Profiles](#).

Following on from the successful first year, the Centre received 13 high-quality applications for the 2nd year of the programme and has awarded the grant to 5 PhD students.