

TO: Government Department
FR: [Student Name]
RE: Government Department Funds Request
DT: 18 June 18, 2013

I am writing to request funds from the Government Department to attend the Summer Institute in Political Psychology (SIPP) in 2013. SIPP will be held at Stanford University from July 14 until August 3, 2013. In those three weeks I will have the opportunity to engage in lectures and discussion groups with prominent researchers in the field and graduate students and professionals from around the world. SIPP is an exciting opportunity that I am truly looking forward to embracing. However, this institute is expensive and any funds the Government Department can contribute would be very helpful.

I am very interested in and dedicated to political psychology. The careful blending of political science and psychology is fascinating to me and I believe that it is important to continue to study. My honors thesis, which I am working on this summer, will use experimental methods to better understand the impact social pressure has on political conformity. I will test whether individuals will alter their political beliefs when faced with a group holding a different opinion. SIPP will provide me with an excellent opportunity to receive feedback on my thesis design and to discuss future research projects. This type of collaboration is crucial for the research process and I am excited to interact with scholars from many diverse educational backgrounds.

In addition to helping me with my thesis, SIPP will undoubtedly prepare me for graduate school, which I hope to attend after my time at William and Mary. Building both a network of collaborators and a research arsenal will allow me to enter graduate school with confidence. In this way, SIPP is an investment in my future in political science research.

My participation in SIPP will also benefit the William and Mary community. I plan to bring back much of what I learn at SIPP to the College to further collaborate with William and Mary students. I currently work with several students in the SNaPP Lab and we often learn from each other's experiences. SIPP will provide me with a fresh perspective that can help the projects of other students in addition to my own.

I am genuinely interested in and excited for SIPP and am honored to be in attendance this year. Any financial assistance the Government Department can provide will help me fulfill my goals for many years to come while also benefitting the College. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Student Name]
William and Mary [20XX]
[Student Email]