

CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICAL STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



CAPS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER GRANT

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Led by an interdisciplinary group of faculty at Harvard University, the Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) fosters discussion, research and public outreach on all aspects of modern U.S. politics. Issues of concern to CAPS affiliates range from patterns of public opinion, electoral politics and civic participation, to the operations of governmental institutions, the dynamics of social movements and groups in politics, the ideological and intellectual roots of American politics, and the causes and results of public policies.

In order to encourage innovative research by undergraduate students, the Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) awards summer research fellowships up to \$2,500 each to Harvard College juniors who are writing a senior thesis on any aspect of contemporary American politics. Undergraduates in any concentration in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences are welcome to apply. The purpose of the fellowship is to enable students to spend time in the summer and in the fall of their senior year on thesis research. It is acceptable to apply for funding to support archival research efforts locally and domestically, in addition to other methods to gather relevant materials and data (surveys, literature searches, etc.). CAPS is one of the few resources for undergraduates in the social sciences to obtain funding to support qualitative thesis research.

The deadline for Undergraduate Student Summer Grant Applications is **5pm on Friday, February 12, 2021**. Applications are made through [CARAT](https://apps2.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/carat/) (<https://apps2.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/carat/>). Please follow the application instructions on the next page. **Hard copies of applications are not required and no applications will be accepted after the deadline.**

Students will be notified of the Center's decisions by early April. Successful applicants will receive the total stipend in May. Each fellowship winner is required to submit in the fall a brief written report of his or her summer's research and to give a copy of the completed thesis to the Center.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Donaldson at caps@gov.harvard.edu.

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER GRANT APPLICATION

Application guidelines:

- **Register through [CARAT](#)** (the on-line “Common Application for Research and Travel” tool).
- **These are the materials you will need to submit via CARAT:**
 - Proposal outlining the project you wish to undertake, to include the following elements: statement of the research subject proposed; list and discussion of the sources, libraries, and archives to be consulted; and itinerary and plan of summer research. (2-4 double-spaced pages).
 - Current one-page resume
 - Current official transcript
 - One letter of recommendation from either a faculty member, tutor or teaching fellow should be uploaded electronically to the CARAT system. When you reach this part of the application, you’ll receive reference instructions for recommenders who are Harvard Affiliates and for Non-Harvard recommenders. Please follow these instructions. **The deadline for the letter of recommendation is February 12, 2021.**

Additional application considerations:

- If you are planning to conduct research that involves human subjects (interviews, written surveys, observations, etc.), you will need to contact the [Committee on the Use of Human Subjects \(CUHS\)](#) to determine if your project needs approval. Committee approval is not required at the time of your application submission to centers. The Committee can be reached at 617-496-2847 or cuhs@fas.harvard.edu.
- Harvard College policy may prevent the sponsorship of undergraduate activities taking place in countries with certain U.S. Department of State travel warnings. Please consult the Harvard College Policy on Undergraduate Travel Abroad for more information.