General Funding Terminology

Scholarship

This type of funding does not typically have to be repaid, is awarded based on varying criteria, and often requires the recipient to satisfy certain criteria during the academic year for which the scholarship is awarded (e.g., maintain full time enrollment or a minimum GPA). Scholarship funding is typically merit-based and is usually awarded to support a student while s/he pursues a college degree (e.g., scholarship funds may pay the student's tuition and fees or living expenses).

Grant

The term "grant" is used to describe two types of funding. One type of funding is an award directly to a student that does not typically have to be repaid, is awarded based on varying criteria, and often requires the recipient to satisfy certain criteria during the academic year for which the grant is awarded (*e.g.*, maintain full time enrollment or a minimum GPA). This type of grant is usually need-based and can be awarded to a student to support them while they pursue a degree (*e.g.*, grant funds may pay the student's tuition and fees or living expenses).

Another type of grant funding is an award that is designed to support a specific research project or scholarly activity (such as a travel grant to present at a conference). This type of grant funding requires that the applicant submit a proposal that outlines the research project aims, methods, and budget, that goes through a review process in which the proposal is evaluated. This type of grant funding does not require the award to be repaid, but often requires that a final report be submitted or a presentation be given to the funding agency at the conclusion of the research project.

Fellowship

A fellowship is similar to a scholarship, but will often require the recipient to participate in an internship or research project as a stipulation of receiving this type of funding. Fellowships do not have to be repaid, and usually provide the student with a stipend in exchange for their work on the specified task.

Award

Awards are typically given in recognition of an individual's accomplishments, but can also be used to fund future work. Awards may be financial or may be given for social recognition of an individual's work. An example of a research award available to UNLV undergraduate students is the *the Office of Undergraduate Research Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award* or the Nevada Regents' Scholar Award for undergraduate researchers.

Internal

Internal funding is support that is available to individuals within an institution. UNLV scholarships, grants, and awards such as the *Rebel Achievement Scholarship* and the *UNLV Grant* are examples of internal funding for which only UNLV students are eligible to apply.

External

External funding is money provided by public or private organizations outside of an institution. Examples of external funding sources for undergraduate research are the *National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (NSF REU)* and the *Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Undergraduate Scholars Program*.

Federal

Federal funding is money that is provided by the federal government. This includes federal financial aid, and government funding organizations such as *National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program*, and the *Fulbright U.S. Student Program*.

Private

Private funding is awarded to the recipient by a non-government organization. Examples of private funding for undergraduate scholarly activities include *National Geographic Young Explorers Grants*, and the *Presser Foundation Undergraduate Scholar Award* for music.

Need-based

This type of funding is based on the financial need of a student, and typically requires the recipient to meet specific income requirements to qualify.

Merit-based

This type of funding is based on the ability or skill of the recipient.

Additional information about funding for UNLV students can be found on the webpage of the UNLV Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: http://www.unlv.edu/finaid/scholarships-grant

Why Do You Need Research Funds?

Research costs money and you have to get it from somewhere! Grant writing or writing for funding applications have manifold reasons including:

1.   Research materials and equipment

2.   Laboratory analysis

3.   Research-related travel (e.g., data collection, fieldwork, conference attendance etc.)

4.   Publication costs (i.e., article processing fees)

5.   Time

Money to Make Money

As a general rule, it is never too early to get into the habit of applying for funds because:

1.   No amount is too small

2.   Internal funding should lead to external funding

3.   Smaller grants lead to larger grants

4.   Proven producers have a better chance of being funded

General Tips for a Successful Application

Grant writing or writing for funding applications fall under the genre of persuasive writing to persuade reviewers to fund the proposed research. As such, you need to satisfy two fundamental requirements:

1.   A great research idea that is novel, that has relevance, and that can be investigated, thoroughly with available institutional resources and within reasonable time-frame

2.   Effective presentation of the idea.

In addition, your proposal should convey the attitude that:

1.   You are the right person to do the work and to find the answers,

2.   You are aware of previous relevant studies and potential challenges.

A Blueprint for a Successful Application

1.   Begin early

2. Apply early and often

3. Don't forget to include a cover letter with your application

4. Answer all questions

5. If rejected, revise your proposal and apply again

6. Give them what they want. Follow the application guidelines exactly

7. Be explicit and specific

8. Be realistic in designing the project

9. Clearly and explicitly connect your research questions and objectives, your objectives and methods, your methods and results, and your results and dissemination plan

10. Follow the application guidelines exactly

Anatomy of a Successful Application

1. Effectively introduce your project in the first paragraph or section

2. Provide background and brief literature review to address what is known about your research topic and to describe what is unique about your research and your contribution

3. Describe your methodology and data collection strategy and relevant protocols

4. Describe how you will apply your data to address your question(s)

5. Describe your relevant credentials and skills or how (if) you will develop them for the proposed project

6. Clearly state how your research will advance your academic formation and professional development

7. Set and follow a reasonable timeline based on the deadline

8. Follow the submission guidelines and recommended structure of the proposal

9. Organize your proposal and use concise, persuasive writing - writing proposals differs from authoring journal articles

10. Ask colleagues to read your proposal and provide critical comments. If your proposal is not funded, carefully read the reviewer comments, and try again – proposals are often funded on the second, or even third submission

Typical Parts of a Successful Application

1. Cover letter

2. Title page

3. Abstract: State the broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making relevance to the mission of the agency; describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals; and be sure that the project summary reflects the key focus of the proposed project so that the application can be appropriately categorized

4. Introduction: State the problem and research objectives, and explain the significance of research

5. Background and literature review: Contextualize your research and what is known about the topic

6.   Project narrative: State methods, procedures, objectives, outcomes or deliverables, what is already known, anticipated findings, contribution to the field, timetable, and data sharing and dissemination plans

7.   References

8.   Personnel and Institutional Resources

9.   Budget and budget justification

10.   IRB and IACUC approvals, if you are working with human subjects or vertebrates, respectively

11.   Appendices

12.   Biosketch

Other Considerations

1.   Ensure that your goals and objectives are a good match for the funder's mission and priorities

2.   Set and follow a reasonable timeline based on the deadline

3.   Follow the submission guidelines and recommended structure of the proposal

4.   Organize your proposal and use concise, persuasive writing - writing proposals differs from authoring journal articles

5.   Talk to the program officer

6.   Ask colleagues to read your proposal and provide critical comments

7.   If your proposal is not funded, carefully read the reviewer comments, and try again – proposals are often funded on the second, or even third submission

Grant Example

Natural Geographic Society (NGS) Grant #8907-11 to Levent Atici

NGS Job Description

Please describe clearly, and with the minimum of specialized terminology, your proposed project in suitable detail in the space provided. State your objective(s) and relate your planned research design to previous and current work on the subject by yourself and others, being sure to cite relevant literature.

Detail your methodology, noting any special or unusual tools or techniques you plan to employ. In technical proposals, please describe the methodology in sufficient detail for a subject area expert to make an informed decision about whether the methods are appropriate and efficient for accomplishing the research objectives, and justify the methods over possible alternatives.

The length of this description should be the equivalent of 3 pages of text or approximately 2,000 words.

Project Title

Zooarchaeology of Kültepe-Kanesh with an Emphasis on Urban Animal Exploitation and Ethnicity

Research Description and Objectives

Zooarchaeologists have tackled numerous questions to reveal human-animal interactions across time and space. In addition to depending on animals for their primary (e.g., meat) and secondary products (e.g., milk, muscle-power, wool), humans have used animals to establish and legitimize status and power, and to represent ideologies, identities, and ethnicity ([1-7]). Zooarchaeologists have established that early states and urban centers had specialized animal economies with part- or full-time food-producing specialists relying on surplus production and storage, tax collection, and redistributive mechanisms ([8-17]). Previous research has modeled animal economies using a dichotomous approach and distinguishing between

centralized, regulated and decentralized, unregulated animal economies with direct or indirect food provisioning systems ([16]). The proposed research seeks to develop a fine resolution picture of specialized urban animal exploitation, and to correlate patterns of animal production, consumption, redistribution, and discard with ethnicity at Kültepe-Kanesh during the Middle Bronze Age (MBA). Given that most studies probing various socioeconomic aspects of the Bronze Age societies, including ethnicity, have relied on conventional archaeological (e.g., analysis of pottery, architecture, and copper alloy artifacts) or philological studies, a zooarchaeological study of ethnicity with specific reference to food acquisition, production, consumption, and redistribution techniques at Kültepe can generate fresh and exciting results and a new perspective.

The proposed research seeks to probe specialized urban animal exploitation strategies with a special emphasis on ethnicity at Kültepe/Kanesh during the MBA. The specific objectives of this research are:

1.   To characterize urban animal exploitation, and to test whether there is a "typical urban" archaeofaunal assemblage by seeking conspicuous and recurring general trends or signatures in the faunal record;

2.   To investigate differences and similarities between Native Anatolians and Assyrian Merchants in their food preparation, consumption, and discard patterns, and to test whether there are any detectable correlates of ethnicity in the zooarchaeological record by looking at specific spatial contexts where ethnicity identified by archaeologists and philologists using cuneiform tablets.

Methods

1.   To characterize urban animal exploitation, assemblage composition, bone fragmentation patterns, skeletal part evenness, bone surface modifications, carnivore ravaging, and other taphonomic analyses will be carried out. These analyses will reveal taphonomic and depositional histories of the assemblages and help identify distinct zooarchaeological signatures representing urban animal consumption and discard patterns and distinct activities.

2.   To investigate food and ethnicity, taxonomic composition and species abundance, taxonomic diversity, richness, and evenness, body part distribution, economic utility and bone transport, type, intensity, and location of butchery marks, and age and sex structures will be examined.

Material

This project will focus on Level II and sample animal bones from primary and unmixed contexts across the site in general and Assyrian and Anatolian contexts in particular. I will ship large faunal samples to the US in order to effectively and efficiently continue recording, data collection, and analysis during the second stage of the project.

Timetable

Being the bioarchaeology coordinator and principal zooarchaeologist of the Kültepe-Kanesh project, I have already established the necessary infrastructure at the site, arranged logistics in the field, and obtained official permission from the Turkish authorities. I will travel to Turkey with two UNLV graduate students during the summer of 2011 and start the project. I will also involve Turkish students during the primary field recording stage of the project. The stages and schedule of the project is as follows:

1.   Field recording and data collection: July, August 2011, Kültepe-Kanesh, Turkey

2.   Laboratory recording and data collection: September 2011 - February 2012, Las Vegas, NV

3.   Data analysis and write-up: March through June 2012, Las Vegas, NV

Larger Goals and Broader Impacts

By receiving an NGS grant, I will be able to initiate three larger goals:

1.   Provide UNLV and Turkish graduate and undergraduate students with research opportunities and training in the field and in the laboratory,

2.   Develop larger extramural research proposals to be submitted to the National Science Foundation and/or other prestigious governmental/private funding agencies,

3.   Organize a symposium to bring international scholars around the exciting research questions that I am addressing (e.g., zooarchaeology of ethnicity).

Itemized Project Budget[*]

[*]This is a hypothetical budget and not the real budget for the funded project presented here

Item	Quantity	Cost	Subtotal	Total
Jet Travel				
RDU-Kigali (roundtrip)	1		$6,100	$6,100
Maintenance Allowance				
Rwanda	12 months	$1,899	$22,788	$22,788
Project Allowance				
Rearch Assistant/Translator	12 months	$400	$4800	
Transportation within country				
−Phase 1	4 months	$300	$1,200	
−Phase 2	8 months	$1,500	$12,000	
Email	12 months	$60	$720	
Audio cassette tapes	200	$2	$400	
Photographic and slide film	20	$5	$100	
Laptop Computer	1		$2,895	
NUD*IST 4.0 Software			$373	
Etc.				
Total Project Allowance				$35,238
Administrative Fee				$100
Total				$65,690
Sought from other sources				($15,000)
Total Grant Request				$50,690

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