
Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

Spencer Foundation

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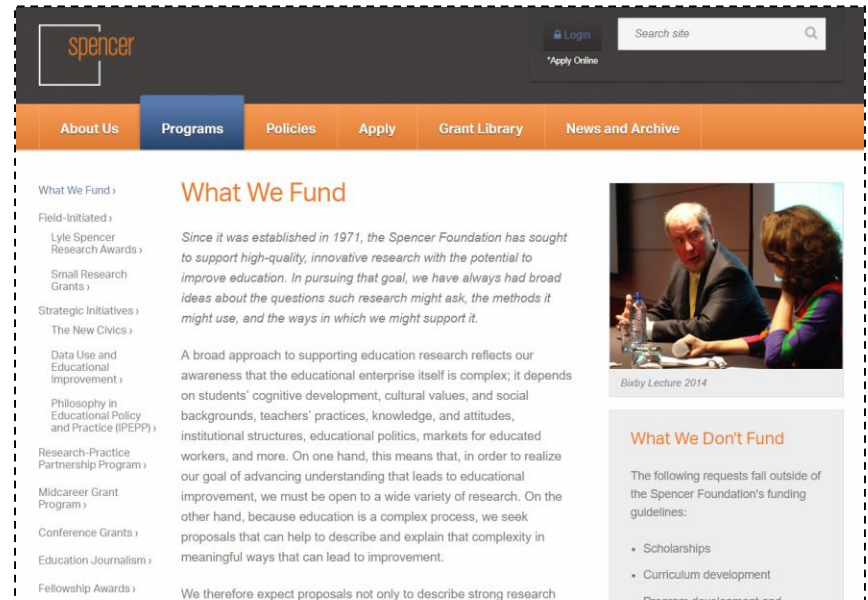
Spencer Foundation

The Foundation is committed to supporting high-quality investigations of education through its research programs and to strengthening and renewing the educational research community through its fellowship programs and related activities.

Our Grant Programs

We have a range of grant programs.

- Lyle Spencer Research Awards
- Small Research Grants
- Conference Grants
- NAEd/Spencer Dissertation and Post-doctoral Awards



The screenshot shows the Spencer Foundation website. The header includes the Spencer logo, a search bar, and links for 'Login' and 'Apply Online'. The navigation menu has tabs for 'About Us', 'Programs', 'Policies', 'Apply', 'Grant Library', and 'News and Archive'. The 'Programs' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'What We Fund' and contains a list of grant categories on the left and a detailed description of the foundation's mission and funding guidelines on the right. A photo of a lecture is also visible.

What We Fund

Since it was established in 1971, the Spencer Foundation has sought to support high-quality, innovative research with the potential to improve education. In pursuing that goal, we have always had broad ideas about the questions such research might ask, the methods it might use, and the ways in which we might support it.

A broad approach to supporting education research reflects our awareness that the educational enterprise itself is complex; it depends on students' cognitive development, cultural values, and social backgrounds, teachers' practices, knowledge, and attitudes, institutional structures, educational politics, markets for educated workers, and more. On one hand, this means that, in order to realize our goal of advancing understanding that leads to educational improvement, we must be open to a wide variety of research. On the other hand, because education is a complex process, we seek proposals that can help to describe and explain that complexity in meaningful ways that can lead to improvement.

What We Don't Fund

The following requests fall outside of the Spencer Foundation's funding guidelines:

- Scholarships
- Curriculum development

Grant Library

The screenshot shows the Spencer Foundation Grant Library website. At the top left is the Spencer logo. To the right are links for 'LOG IN', a Twitter icon, and a search icon. Below this is a navigation bar with tabs for 'About Us', 'Programs', 'Policies', 'Apply', 'Grant Library' (which is highlighted in blue), and 'News and Archive'. The main content area is titled 'Grant Library' and includes the text 'Search for and browse Spencer Foundation funded work.' There are two search input fields: 'Search by Grantee' with a placeholder 'Grantee Name' and 'Search by Organization:' with a placeholder 'Organization Name'. To the right is a 'Filter Database' section with a 'Reset' link, a 'Search Database' input field with placeholder 'Project Title, Book Title, or Author', and two dropdown menus for 'Active Grant Type' and 'Discontinued Grant Type', both currently set to '--Choose--'. At the bottom left, it says 'Browsing 1-25 of 5424 Result(s)' and 'View: 25'. A note at the bottom says 'For more information on each grant please click the grant title.'

At www.spencer.org, the Grant Library provides information on past grant recipients.

The search can be narrowed by grant type, topic, year, principal investigator, organization, etc.

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

The goal of the Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program is to support intellectually ambitious research oriented to improving the practice of education.

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

Education practice

- teachers and classrooms
- teacher education and professional development
- out of school learning
- education at all stages of life
- institutional, policy, and normative frameworks

We envision a broad conception of educational practice that includes formal and informal learning and across settings.

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

Intellectually ambitious

- creative and transformative in scope for the field
- deeply relevant
- addresses a major idea or practice in the field
- in-depth or large-scale

We encourage a range of methods and topics, including building research infrastructure.

We encourage intergenerational, boundary spanning research teams.

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

The Letter of Intent should describe the what, the why, and the how of your study.

- **WHAT:** Describe your idea and make the case for how it is practically or theoretically significant. *What is the focus of your study and why is it important to education practice?*
- **WHY:** Situate the idea and study in a broader context and other research literature. *How will your study impact the field?*
- **HOW:** Describe how you will conduct the study and analyze your data. *What research methods will you use?*

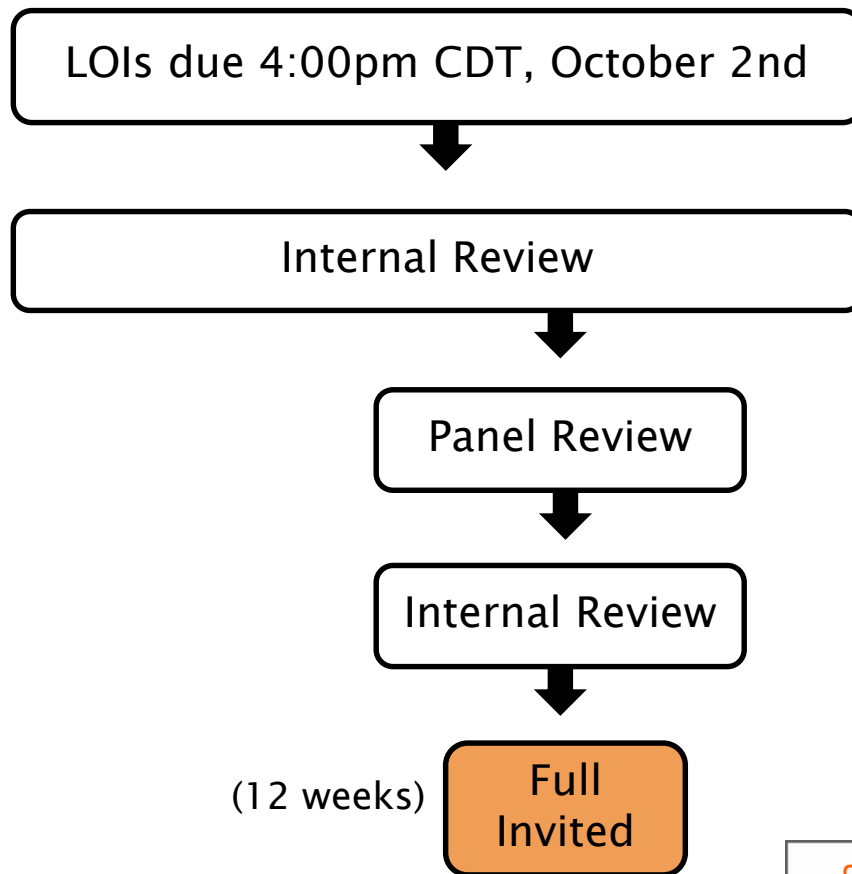
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Characteristics of a good letter:

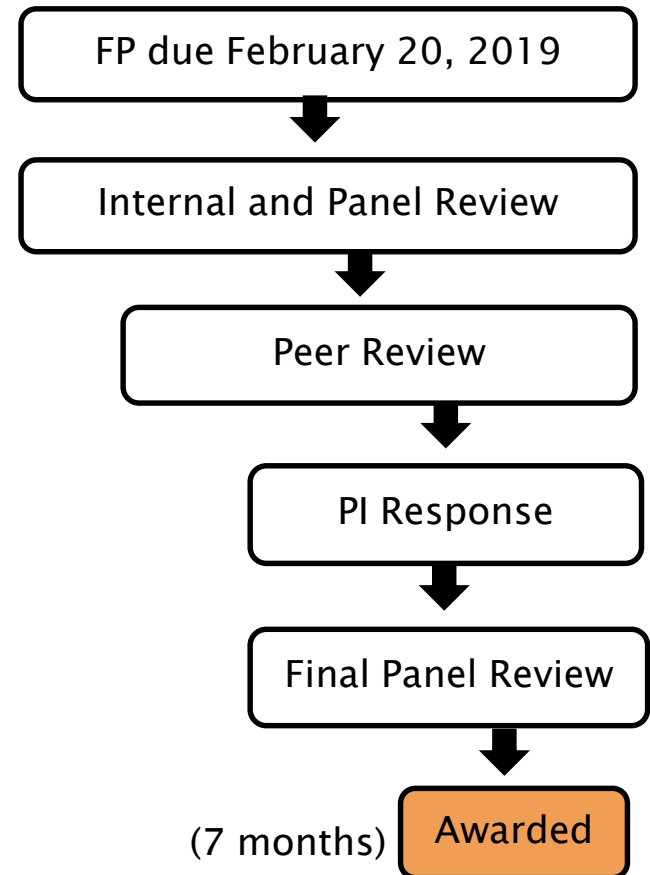
- well-written with accessible language and defined terms
- a good balance among the “what,” “why,” and “how”
- a “story line” connecting one section to the next
- convincing – important topic, good design, highly capable researchers

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

Letter of Intent Review Process



Full Proposal Review Process



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Guidelines/Eligibility:

- Administering organization must be a non-profit.
- PI and Co-PIs must have doctorate degrees or appropriate experience.
- Budgets are limited to \$1,000,000 including a 15% maximum indirect cost charge.
- Duration can be anywhere from one to five years.

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Online System – My Profile

- PI should log in or register to create an account.
- PI should update his/her/their “My Profile” information and upload a current CV (no more than 10 pages).
- If there are Co-PIs on the project, they should also log in and update their “My Profile” information.
- The “Letter of Intent” draft application should be created from the PI’s account.

The screenshot shows the Spencer Workbench interface. At the top, there is a dark header with the text "Spencer Workbench". Below this, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to your Spencer Workbench. Whether you have logged on to submit a grant application, complete a narrative report, or work on your assigned reviews, the first step is to update your Spencer profile page by clicking the button below." Below the message is an orange button labeled "Update My Profile". Underneath the button, contact information for Annie Brinkman, Grants Manager, is provided: "If you have any questions as you work within the Spencer Foundation online system, please feel free to contact Annie Brinkman, Grants Manager, at abrinkman@spencer.org or 312-274-6511." At the bottom of the main content area, there is a dark header with the text "Start a Proposal" and a plus sign icon. Below this, the text "The following programs are currently" is visible. On the right side of the interface, there is a vertical sidebar with several menu items: "My Prop", "Draft and f", "Grant Program", "Small Gran", "Midcareer Grant", "Midcareer Grant", "Lyle Spenc Research Awards", and "My Revi".

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Letter of Intent Application

- Basic information
 - Proposal Title
 - Project Summary (200 word limit)
 - Duration
 - Estimated financial scope
- Letter of Intent narrative (2000 words)
- Research Team bio sketches
- Project data

No institutional sign-off is required with the Letter of Intent.

Proposal Summary

* Proposal Title:

* Project Summary (200 word limit):

200 words left

* Duration (in months):

* Financial Scope (including no more than 15% indirect costs):

\$50,000 to \$250,000

\$250,000 to \$500,000

\$500,000 to \$750,000

\$750,000 to \$1,000,000

Lyle Spencer Research Awards Program

We invite you to submit your ideas!

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General Questions – please use the Q&A function in the webinar.

Or, for specific questions on your project, email lyles@spencer.org.