

CSMU Scholar Application Summary

The [Center for the Science of Moral Understanding](#) (CSMU) will curate a dynamic group of scholars to conduct and disseminate their research. New scholars will be selected every year for the foreseeable future, and selection will be based on past scholarly success, future promise, and the ability to connect with the general public.

Scholars can be from any field that offers empirical insights into building moral understanding, including the fields of psychology, sociology, philosophy, history, law, journalism, political science, and public policy.

Scholars will be expected to attend the annual CSMU conference held in Durham, NC in early June.

The CSMU will fund three different kinds of scholars across different career stages.

Questions should be emailed to scienceofmoralunderstanding@gmail.com.

Scholar Types:

Science and Society Scholars

Science and Society Scholars are eminent and well-established scholars who have the ability to translate scientific and humanistic research into societal change through wide-reaching thought leadership. These scholars will leverage their elevated platform in the national discourse to reach out through popular books, articles, and talks. Funding is expected to be used for a semester leave, although other options are possible.

Funding amount: up to \$70,000 for one year.

Funding period: June 1st, 2020 to May 31st, 2021.

Conferences: June 2020 (to present their body of work and their goals and plan of action) and June 2021 (to present their achievements from the past year).

Number of annual awardees: Up to two.

Momentum Scholars

Early- to mid-career scholars are often especially intellectually generative. This funding initiative will support this cohort of scholars to focus their generativity on the science and/or social and historical context of moral understanding—and to build further momentum in their careers. Projects will be funded based on their potential for discovering important new phenomena and theories in the science and context of moral understanding, with a special emphasis on discoveries that can be scaled to society at large. Funds can be used for research, personnel, outreach, salary, and tests of scalability.

Funding amount: up to \$50,000/year for two years, for a total of \$100,000.

Funding period: Two years, from June 1st, 2020 to May 31st, 2022.

Conferences: June 2020 (to present their past work and proposed research), June 2021 (to present their ongoing findings and gain feedback), and June 2022 (to present their final results).

Number of annual awardees: Up to three.

Emerging Scholars

Perhaps the most critical time for career success in academia is at the end of graduate school (e.g., dissertation completion) and in post-doctoral fellowships. This funding initiative will support this cohort of young scholars to help catalyze their independent research program on moral understanding. Funds can be used for research, personnel, outreach, salary.

Funding amount: up to \$25,000/year for two years, for a total of \$50,000.

Funding period: Two years, from June 1st, 2020 to May 31st, 2022.

Conferences: June 2020 (to present their past work and proposed research), June 2021 (to present their ongoing findings and gain feedback), and June 2022 (to present their final results).

Number of annual awardees: Up to five.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be selected based on their potential for intellectual merit and broader impact (as with [NSF grants](#))—specifically their potential for advancing the field of moral understanding, and for measurably increasing moral understanding in American society. The selection committee includes Center staff, Advisory Board members and Ad hoc reviewers. They will look for proposals that provide innovative and transformative ideas that lend themselves to large-scale real-world impact.

All other things equal, priority will be given to proposals that most efficiently use funds and leverage unique scholar advantages (whether pre-existing funding, access to unique populations, knowledge of novel methods, capitalizing on innovative theories, unique interdisciplinary perspectives, special positioning to effect social change). Applicants should emphasize how their proposal meets the specific goals of their selected scholar type.

Application Process

Consistent with many funding agencies, the CSMU will use a two-stage review process.

Stage 1: Letter of Intent

Applicants should submit a two-page project outline that is tailored to one specific scholar type (Font: Palatino Linotype, size 10 pt, 1.15 line spacing, 1-inch margins). This page limit does not include a cover page (featuring project title and applicant information), an abstract (up to 180 words), any tables/figures, and references. Applicants should also submit a rough budget (1 page), and a CV. Letters of intent should be combined into a single pdf (order: proposal, budget, CV) and emailed to scienceofmoralunderstanding@gmail.com.

Stage 2: Full Proposals

A small subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal, which will include a 10-page project proposal with the same formatting of the Letter of Intent (although figures should be embedded and count towards the 10-page limit). This project proposal should provide a more detailed description of the methodology, analyses, and conceptual advances, and should also include a concrete set of outputs and outcomes of the project. Full proposals should include a separate detailed budget and budget justification, and also an updated CV. Applicants for dissertation and post-doc fellowships should also include a brief letter of mentor support. Letters of intent should be combined into a single pdf (order: proposal, budget/justification, potential letters of support, CV) and emailed to scienceofmoralunderstanding@gmail.com.

Application Timeline

Oct 1, 2019: Letters of Intent Due.

Oct 22, 2019: Decisions made; Invitations for Full Proposals.

Dec 3, 2019: Full Proposals Due

Jan 15, 2020: Decisions made.