Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What does “interdisciplinary” mean?**
   1. The term “interdisciplinary” comes from two aspects of the grant. First, you are asked to focus your project on a specific theme that has possibilities for interdisciplinary connections. Indeed, the theme is one that the university has identified as being one of the complex issues of our day requiring multiple ways of investigating- with many possibilities for collaboration. Second, grant recipients will be linked with an expert outside the School of the Arts who either works in some way with the theme or has conducted research related to the theme. We ask that you meet with this outside resource with your faculty advisor in an early stage of your project. It’s hoped that this contact will to give you feedback and assistance in thinking about and doing your project. They may also become a valuable resource in completing the project or in developing other projects.
2. **Do I need to have a major in the School of the Arts, or can this be a minor with a major in another School? Also, can I be employed by the School of the Arts, but majoring in another area?**
   1. You must be a major within the School of the Arts in order to be eligible. Unfortunately, grant funding will not include majors in other schools with a minor/employment in the School of the Arts.
3. **Can I be graduating in May and still apply for the grant?**
   1. You must be enrolled during the time period of award including the completion of the project. You are eligible if you are graduating in May. However, you must complete the project prior to Stop Day in the Spring semester.
4. **What semesters do I need to be enrolled for in order to be eligible for the grant?**
   1. As above, you must be enrolled when you apply and during the time carry out the project. However, we do not require that the student be enrolled full time during the summer semester. Therefore, students who are applying for Period I should be enrolled in Spring/Fall 2012, and those for Period II should be enrolled in Fall 2012/Spring 2013.
5. **How many hours do I need to be enrolled in to be eligible for a grant?**
   1. You must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credits for undergraduates; at least 9 credits for graduate students). If you think an exception should be made, or if you have questions about the number of credit hours or your eligibility, please contact the School of the Arts ([sota@ku.edu](mailto:sota@ku.edu)) or Amanda McCoy ([amccoy@ku.edu](mailto:amccoy@ku.edu), 785-864-6159).
6. **How many grants will be awarded?**
   1. Funding is available for 10 grants each year. The total number of grants awarded depends on the quality of proposals we receive.
7. **Why these particular themes?**
   1. The theme you choose is one of four themes identified as part of Bold Aspirations, the new strategic plan for the University. The themes represent KU’s highest priorities for research in the next five years. We believe that the arts have an important part in the future of KU and much to add to the goals and priorities of the University. You can find more information on the themes by visiting [www.provost.ku.edu/planning/themes/theme3.shtml](http://www.provost.ku.edu/planning/themes/theme3.shtml) .
8. **Do I choose the Faculty Advisor? If so, does the faculty member have to be from my area, or emphasis?**
   1. You choose the faculty member who will act as your Faculty Advisor. The faculty member should be someone you know and have worked with before. Faculty Advisors must be in the School of the Arts.
9. **Who chooses the contact outside of the School of the Arts?**
   1. The contact for the person outside of the School will be provided for each student who receives a grant. We recommend that you take your Faculty Advisor along to at least the first meeting with this contact.
10. **When does the project need to be completed?**
    1. By June 15 of the following year. If you are graduating, you need to complete the project by Stop Day of the Spring semester.
11. **Does the project have to RESEARCH the topic or FULFILL the topic?**
    1. You can do a project that researches the topic, or your project can have an outcome that fulfills the topic. A project can even be one that seeks to do both.
12. **Is this a group project?**
    1. This is not a group project, because one person is applying for funding and is, ultimately, responsible for seeing that the project is completed and documented. At the same time, multiple people could be involved in the execution of the project. The arts often involve a group effort and multiple contributions while also having a leader. Students are also encouraged to seek the help/advice from their faculty advisor as well as their outside contact (after the grant has been awarded).
13. **When will I receive notification of award?**
    1. Notifications will be sent by the end of the fall semester.
14. **Can a student combine grants to use for this project?**
    1. Yes, but please be upfront about any funding you have received. Indicate which part of the project you will apply the Student Interdisciplinary Research Grant toward, and which will provided by the alternate funding.
15. **Will the grant be applied to any fines or tuition that I have not paid?**
    1. You must pay any fines or tuition that you owe the University before the award of this grant. However, we are working with the KU Budget Office make sure that the award of this grant does not penalize students on federal assistance by raising the cost of attendance.
16. **Can we receive feedback on our grants?**
    1. We would be very happy to provide you feedback! Please email Amanda McCoy ([amccoy@ku.edu](mailto:amccoy@ku.edu)) with your request, and she can provide that information to you after the Student Board has made decisions about grant awards.
17. **What if I have a question that is not listed here?**
    1. Please contact the School of the Arts ([sota@ku.edu](mailto:sota@ku.edu)) or Amanda McCoy ([amccoy@ku.edu](mailto:amccoy@ku.edu), 785-864-6159). You can also attend one of our informational sessions. The ones for the spring deadline have passed, but look for these sessions to begin again before the Nov. 5, 2012 deadline for Period II.