

Nine Recommendations for Crafting a Strong ISLA Proposal

1. Find a faculty advisor who will help you develop your project and prepare your proposal.
2. Start your application early, well in advance of deadlines. This will allow you to work through multiple drafts prior to submission. Starting early will also help you secure carefully prepared letters of recommendation. By providing letter writers with an advanced draft or final version of your proposal, you give them the opportunity to incorporate specific commentary on your project in their letters.
3. Understand the grant's eligibility requirements and the criteria by which proposals will be evaluated.
4. Conform to specific proposal requirements. See ["How to Apply"](#) page.
5. Write clearly for a general academic audience and avoid unnecessary technical jargon. When you must use technical language in your proposal, be sure to explain your terminology.
6. Develop a persuasive argument using pertinent facts that clearly demonstrates your need for funding.
7. Strive to be as detailed as possible about the concrete aspects of your proposal. Remember that each aspect of your research plan and budget must be justified, so be specific in the explanation of your choices.
8. All proposals should explain the project's research/creative objectives, provide an overview of previous research or artistic influences, explain how your project will be carried out, describe the skills and knowledge you bring to the proposed project and the mentoring your project will receive, outline the principal activities to be carried out and the timeline for those activities, and explain the importance of your project.
9. Ask others, preferably those with experience in grant writing, to read and critique drafts of your proposal. For assistance crafting your proposal, the following resources are available to you: [The Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement \(CUSE\)](#), [The Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts \(ISLA\)](#), and [The Writing Center](#).