



APM Research Fund

Call for applications for funding

2021-22

About the APM Research Fund

1. The Association for Project Management (APM), the Chartered body for the project profession research programme aims to advance new and existing knowledge in the delivery of projects, programmes and portfolios. By developing innovative research and sharing its results and findings, APM helps to develop and promote a profession built around learning and collaboration. In this way, research helps to fulfil APM's chartered objectives whilst providing funding, dissemination, and promotional opportunities.
2. The APM Research Fund has been setup within the Research Programme to provide seed funding or funding for small-scale research projects (lower tier) as well as providing a higher value grant for supporting larger studies (higher tier).
3. APM welcomes applications to the Research Fund from APM members and the wider international project management community to fund research proposals that seek to address key issues that are either directly involved in or related to, the management of projects, programmes, and portfolios.

How much funding is available?

4. Lower tier proposals looking for seed funding will be typically funded at £5,000 each whilst larger higher tier submissions of a much larger scale, ambition and impact will be typically funded at £25,000. APM is happy to consider match-funding or co-funded submissions.

How can APM and the APM Sponsored Research Fund help me?

5. In addition to funding, APM can help provide access to data and research participants who wish to be involved in cutting edge research activities (for example, through access to its corporate partners). APM also aids researchers by providing a dissemination platform for research at its events including its annual conference, publications, journals, and media activities.

Eligibility Criteria

6. Applications and proposals are open to all UK-residents (including academics and researchers, students, the APM volunteer community and project practitioners etc.) and globally to academics and researchers at non-UK recognised Higher Education Institutions.

7. Both individual and collaborative proposals are welcomed as are interdisciplinary projects. The number of studies awarded funding will vary from year to year depending on the quality of submissions and priorities.

What should the research proposal contain?

8. APM's research interests for 2021-22 are:

I. *Re-evaluating the basics – application of project management tools and techniques in the digital arena*

Projects and project environments are becoming increasingly more complex and challenging. Practice is experiencing conflicting objectives (more projects with higher standards but less money available), rapid development of technologies and issues in integrating project controls. The use of basic project management tools and techniques such as risk management or project controls changes in the new digital arena. This theme aims to revisit project management tools and techniques in the current project environment to provide practical solutions to project managers whilst exploring the talent and resources needed to deliver successfully.

II. *Climate change and sustainability*

Climate change and sustainability are two key challenges for projects. Project managers face the task of balancing requirements between staying competitive, driving innovation, and preserving the environment. The need to future proof projects and assess the impact of projects on the climate is accelerating. This theme aims to focus on the interface between projects and climate change as well as sustainability and approaches to manage this interface.

9. Other themes will also be considered for funding and applicants are encouraged to put forward innovative topics which will support the future delivery of projects and which address current challenges.

10. The above themes directly support the APM strategy. For more on the strategy please visit: <https://www.apm.org.uk/about-us/apm-strategy>

11. Proposals should be succinct (no more than 1500 words) in MS Word or PDF formats.

12. Research proposals should include:

A statement addressing the following points:

- *The research question you seek to answer*
- *Past research or previous work related to this subject area (theoretical background)*
- *Proposed methodology adopted for the research*
- *The theoretical and practical benefits of the research to APM and the project management community and how these will be measured or evaluated to measure the impact of the research (contribution to theory and practice)*
- *Relevance of the research to APM's research interests for 2021-22*
- *Predicted timescales of key activities*

- *Proposed budget and the request for how much funding is required* – will any funding be coming from other sources such as Research Councils, private companies, professional bodies, or other organisations? How will the monies be used?
- *What support will be required from APM?*
- *Target audience(s)* – preference will be given to those who already have identified targeted populations and/or contacts for their research activities
- *The research outputs and how the research will be disseminated* - applicants should read the next section **Outputs and conditions on achieving the funding**.
- Name, organisation, and contact details including most recent CV(s).

Outputs and Conditions on achieving the funding

13. Outputs or materials arising from the APM Research Fund could take many formats from reports and white papers, to presentations at events or in publications such as academic journals or magazines. Consideration should be given to the longevity of the outputs and how they can be best utilised by members of the project management community.
14. Conditions on achieving the funding could include some of the following although the most appropriate outputs from each project will be discussed with the APM Research Manager upon attaining funding:
 - A research report for practitioners (mandatory)
 - Academic papers or summaries
 - Interactive media or webinar(s)
 - Talks or presentations by the researchers/authors at APM events or relevant external events/conferences (one activity mandatory)
 - Promotion in the press and/or other media
 - Regular updates on activities and progress during the period of APM sponsorship.
15. Please visit <https://www.apm.org.uk/Research/fund> for examples of current APM Research Fund studies.

Assessment process

16. All applications for 2021-22 will be non-blind reviewed and evaluated by a panel appointed by APM and its Research Advisory Group (RAG). Submitted proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:
 - a) the quality of the research question and what the research is seeking to achieve
 - b) any knowledge gaps or emergent themes the research is seeking to address
 - c) the appropriateness of the methodology and methods adopted
 - d) practical value to APM, its members and the wider project management community
 - e) value for money
 - f) Relevance of the research to APM's research themes and priorities for 2021-22
 - g) timescales – preference will be given to proposals which can be delivered fully within 1 year of being awarded research fund monies

17. Individuals will be contacted if any further information or clarification around their submission is required. The decision of the Research Advisory Group will be final, and feedback cannot be guaranteed.

Intellectual Property and Acknowledge Practice signposting

18. Whereby APM are the sole funder the following position will generally be adopted. Applicants will licence to APM the right to use, modify, edit, manipulate and/or distribute, on an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide and royalty free basis, any and all IP rights in the Work (including the right to grant sub-licenses and including the right to use any of the Recipient's existing background IP rights comprised on which the Work is based or on which the Work is incorporated) for any or all of the following purposes:

18.1. for non-commercial purposes such as submissions to academic journals, research dissemination and for the public benefit.

18.2. to inform APM products and services including the Body of Knowledge, Competence Framework, APM guides and qualifications; and

18.3 for APM content generation such as blogs, articles, research summaries and interactive media

19. The applicant warrants to APM that (1) the material created is original; (2) that the applicant is the first owner of copyright in such material; and (3) that all third-party IP rights that are comprised in the Work have been cleared and all consents, permissions or licences that are required from such third parties have been granted.

20. Applicants receiving funding must acknowledge this in all publications. The following text should be included in the funding or acknowledgement section in any published work (including any conference papers or posters) based on or incorporating part or all of the research outputs and works produced as part of this project: "This work was supported by the Association for Project Management (APM) Research Fund." If more than one funder or grant was involved, the text should include the names of all funders in order of contribution.

How do I apply?

21. All research proposals should be sent with the subject line FAO APM Research Fund to research@apm.org.uk

22. Please contact APM research on the above email if you have any questions or would like to discuss your concept ahead of submitting your proposal.

Timetable and payments

23. The following timetable will be used:

W/C 25 October 2021

Applications for proposals open

31 January 2022

Applications deadline

March 2022	Evaluation of proposals by the APM Research Advisory Group and Academic Research Review Group (RAG) assessment panel
Late March 2022	Feedback provided by this date on all submissions
Late March – Late May 2022	Meetings with successful research leads to take place
Summer 2022	Successful research projects publicised by this date
Summer/Autumn 2022 onwards	Commencement of successful research projects

24. Funding will be distributed on an individual basis once research outputs have been agreed following a meeting with the APM Research Manager.

Further information and contact

25. For more information about APM Research or the APM Research Fund please contact research@apm.org.uk or visit: www.apm.org.uk/research