Main Research Fund Guidelines

Call for applications 2025

Association for Project Management
Deadline: 19 January 2026

Dear Research Community,

The Association for Project Management (APM) is committed to supporting project professionals by providing funding and support to advance the science, theory and practice of project and programme management for the public benefit. This year, our theme focuses on "**The Future of Project Value: Integrating Strategy, Sustainability and Success".** This theme reflects the evolving role of projects in creating long-term strategic, social and environmental impact. It invites research that explores how project success can be measured beyond traditional metrics, how sustainability and green transitions can be embedded into project delivery, and how strategic risk thinking can be integrated to align projects with broader organisational and societal objectives.

Through this call, APM seeks to encourage innovative research that bridges theory and practice and helps shape the future of project management. This is APM's largest and most prestigious research fund, supporting academics to carry out their research. **A total of up to £50,000 is available, and applicants can request any amount up to this limit, whether for a larger project or a smaller scale study.** The call is open to both UK and international applicants.

Key features

1. Grants Available: **up to a £50,000 funding pot**
2. Application Deadline: **Monday, 19 January 2026**
3. To apply, please complete the Research Proposal Template and send it to **research@apm.org.uk** with the subject line "Main Research Fund", along with your most recent CV(s).
4. Closely aligned with APM's strategy, these are the themes for this year's Main Research Fund:

Shifting Measures of Success - Redefining Project Success in the Age of Long-Term Value Creation
For instance, but not limited to:
• Explore how project performance is evolving beyond time, cost, and quality to include social impact, sustainability, and stakeholder well-being.

Sustainability and Green Transitions - Projects as Catalysts for Net-Zero Transformation
For instance, but not limited to:
• Assess the role of projects in accelerating the transition to sustainable energy, transport and infrastructure systems.

Strategic Risk Integration - Embedding Strategic Risk Thinking in Project and Portfolio Management
For instance, but not limited to:
• Adress how organisations align project risks with enterprise-level risk frameworks and strategic objectives.

Eligibility criteria

- The research fund is open to academics and researchers from recognised higher education institutions **worldwide**.

- Applications from both individuals and collaborative teams are welcome, including interdisciplinary projects.

- Submissions from those who have not previously received APM funding are strongly encouraged.

Proposal Guidelines

- Proposals should be concise (up to 1,800 words) in MS Word or PDF formats, following the provided template and addressing each point thoroughly.
- Address key points outlined in the template, including methodology, theoretical background and potential impact on the project management community.

Assessment process and criteria

All applications for 2025 will undergo review and evaluation within APM's diverse departments and the Research Advisory Group. Submitted proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- The quality of the research question and its objectives.
- Identification of knowledge gaps the research aims to address.
- Appropriateness of the methodology and methods employed.
- Practical value to APM, its members, and the broader project management community, including research impact. This should be clearly stated in the research's impact section on the Research Proposal Template.
- Cost-effectiveness.
- Alignment with APM's 2025 theme.

Submission Details

- Complete the Research Proposal Template.
- Email your proposal to research@apm.org.uk with the subject line "Main Research Fund Application".

Important Dates

- Application Deadline: **Monday**, **19 January 2026**
- Results Announcement: **Friday, 13 March 2026**

Further Steps

- Successful applicants will be contacted for a kick-off meeting with APM's Research and Impact Advisor.
- Throughout this process, APM and the selected individuals will hold regular meetings to provide updates on activities and progress.
- Research reports are expected within one year or less.

Dissemination

The selected proposals will be disseminated with the aim of bridging the gap between research and policy. Dissemination plans will be determined collaboratively by the researchers/authors, APM's Research and Impact Advisor and the Marketing and Communications team. As part of these activities, the following are expected or encouraged:

- Produce a final research report outlining the research objectives, methodology, data analysis and findings.
- Participate in a Corporate Webinar organised by APM to present and discuss your research findings.
- Submission of articles to the International Journal of Project Management is strongly encouraged; however, APM does not guarantee the acceptance or selection of any submissions.
- Engage in additional dissemination activities, such as LinkedIn Live sessions, podcasts, webinars or APM blogs. Participation in these activities will be encouraged where possible and is subject to team availability and resources.

Please visit our website for examples of APM's research.

Privacy and Data Handling

The data we collect will only be used for the purpose of processing applications to the Research Fund. It will be stored on APM's secure server through Microsoft Teams and will only be accessible to the Directorate of Communications and External Affairs. Data will be stored for a period of two years before it is securely deleted. If you want to know more about how we handle personal data at APM including your individual rights, please check our Privacy Statement on our website.

Acknowledgment and Intellectual Property

Where APM is the sole funder the following position will generally be adopted. Applicants will license 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 comprising or on which the Work is based or incorporated) for any or all of the following purposes:

- for non-commercial purposes, such as submissions to academic journals, research dissemination, and for public benefit.
- to inform APM products and services, including the Body of Knowledge, Competence Framework, APM guides and qualifications.
- for APM content generation, such as blogs, articles, research summaries and interactive media.

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 licenses that are required from such third parties have been granted.

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 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.

APM during and after the assessment process

- Please note that individuals may be contacted if any further information or clarification regarding their submission is required.

- If you have any questions regarding your application that have not been addressed yet, please contact us at research@apm.org.uk , and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

- We will aim to provide feedback to all participants, but due to the large number of applications, we might not be able to guarantee detailed feedback.

Timetable and payments

The timetable and payments will be discussed and agreed upon with each research team.