



Association for
Project Management

APM Research Fund

Call for applications for funding 2023

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). 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 can be funded up to the value of £50,000.

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 can APM and the APM Research Fund help me?

4. 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

5. 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.

6. 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?

7. APM's research interests for 2023 are:

Diversity and underrepresentation in the project profession – ensuring that gender, ethnicity and neurodiversity are recognised and supported will doubtlessly recognise that the project profession is an open profession for all but how does this play out in practice today? This theme seeks to understand the barriers and enablers taking in current activity through case

studies and other examples of how the profession can ensure it has the full breadth and depth of talent by supporting underrepresented groups.

Current and future of the project profession including methods and skills –This theme seeks to identify the future methods and skills that will aid project delivery, to advance project management and the project management community. For example are current approaches fit for purpose, what do we need to change to harness current and future digital technologies and are there differences around delivering projects in the public as opposed to the private sector, when making these considerations.

8. 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 but priority will be afforded to those supporting the APM research interests for 2023.

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

10. Proposals should be succinct (no more than 1500 words) in MS Word or PDF formats using the research fund template proposal form.

11. 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 will this be measured or evaluated to measure the impact of the research (contribution to theory and practice). How will impact be generated?
- Relevance of the research proposal to APM's research interests for 2023
- Predicted timescales of key activities
- Proposed budget and the request for how much funding is required? 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

12. 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.

13. 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 to be submitted as part of the funding – which journals and why
- A Research summary of the main report
- Interactive media and webinar(s)
- Talks or presentations by the researchers/authors at APM events or relevant external events/conferences – these may be both physical and virtual

- Support for APM plans for dissemination and impact including promotion in the press and/or other media
- Regular updates on activities and progress during the period of APM sponsorship.

14. Please visit <https://www.apm.org.uk/resources/research/research-fund/> for examples of current APM Research Fund studies.

Assessment process

15. All applications for 2023 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 and research impact
- e) value for money
- f) Relevance of the research to APM's research themes and priorities for 2023
- g) timescales – preference will be given to proposals which can be delivered fully within 1 year of being awarded research fund monies

16. 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

17. 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:

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

18. 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.

19. 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?

20. Please complete research fund template proposal form.

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:

Friday 17 March 2023	Applications for proposals open
Monday 15 May 2023	Applications deadline
Late May/early June 2023	Evaluation of proposals by the APM Research Advisory Group (RAG) assessment panel
30 June 2023	Feedback provided by this date on all submissions
July - August 2023	Meetings with successful research leads and contracting to take place
September 2023	Successful research projects publicised by this date
September 2023 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 staff.

Further information and contact

25. For more information about APM Research or the APM Research Fund please contact research@apm.org.uk or visit: <https://www.apm.org.uk/resources/research/research-fund/>