Commissioned Research Guidelines

**Association for Project Management
Commissioned Research**

Deadline: Monday 11 November 2024

Dear Research Community,

Association for Project Management is currently inviting applications for research funding, with a total budget of £50,000. We welcome proposals from academics, practitioners, think tanks and other organisations that can address this year's selected themes through innovative approaches. Funding requests at different levels are encouraged. There will be no fixed number of selected proposals, choices will be based on the quality, impact, and alignment with this year's themes. If there are any questions, please reach out to research@apm.org.uk

Key Features

1. Grant Available: Up to £50,000

2. Closely aligned with APM's strategy, these are the themes for this year's Research Fund:

- **The Politics of Projects**

We would like to explore how power, influence, and negotiation impact project planning, execution, and delivery. The proposal should examine the role of political dynamics, like stakeholder interests and organisational politics, in shaping project decisions and success. Proposals should address these influences and suggest innovative management approaches for navigating competing interests.

- **The Role of the Sponsor**

This proposal should examine the responsibilities and impact of project sponsors in guiding projects. We seek proposals on how sponsors influence success through strategic vision, resource allocation and stakeholder engagement. Explore their roles in decision-making, risk management, and aligning project objectives with organisational goals. The proposal should investigate how effective sponsorship enhances outcomes and best practices for maximising effectiveness.

- **Project Leadership**

The proposal should focus on the project manager's role in leading and inspiring teams. We seek studies on how effective leadership practices, such as communication, motivation, and decision-making, drive success. Examine how project managers influence team dynamics, manage conflicts, and align projects with organisational goals, and identify best practices for enhancing leadership skills.

Eligibility Criteria

This call is open to academics, researchers, practitioners and other bodies who wish to develop a project on the themes chosen for this year's commissioned research.

Proposal Guidelines

Assessment process and criteria

- The quality of the research question and its objectives.

- Identification of knowledge gaps and 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 on the research's impact section on the Research Proposal Template.

- Cost-effectiveness.

- Alignment with APM's Commissioned research themes.

Submission Details

- Complete the Research Proposal Template.
- Email your proposal to research@apm.org.uk with the subject line "APM Academic Commissioned Research 2024"

Important Dates

Proposals will be assessed after Monday 11 November 2024.

Further Steps

- Successful applicants will be contacted for a kick-off meeting with APM's Research and Impact Advisor and the Head of Policy and Public Affairs.

- 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.

Dissemination

Dissemination activities will be decided collaboratively among the authors, APM's Research and Impact Advisor and the Marketing and Communications team.

- Authors are expected to deliver a final research report in which they identify the objectives of their research, the research methodology, data analysis and research findings.

- The aim of this research report is to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

- Researchers will receive a template to draft this report.

- Researchers are encouraged to contribute articles to the International Journal of Project Management, which is co-owned by APM.

- Dissemination activities include journal articles, LinkedIn Lives, webinars, participation in podcasts and APM blogs.

Please visit our website for examples of APM's Research Fund studies.

Privacy and Data Handling

The data we collect will only be used for the purpose of processing applications to the Commissioned Research. 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

Whereby APM are 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 comprised on which the Work is based or on whichthe Work is 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) Commissioned 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 will be discussed and agreed upon with each research team. Payments will be distributed in instalments upon completion of each of the following steps:

Research Stage	Amount
Completion of literature review	TBC
Completion of data collection	TBC
Completion of data analysis	TBC
Report production and dissemination activity	TBC

We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that aim to have an impact in the project profession.