

Early Careers Research Fund Guidelines

Call for applications

2025

Association for Project Management

Deadline Monday, 28 April

Dear Research Community,

The Association for Project Management (APM) is committed to supporting early-career professionals by providing seed funding and guidance for small-scale research projects. **This year, our theme focuses on how project management research can drive progress towards the future.** APM's mission and charitable objective is to advance the science, theory and practice of project and programme management for the public benefit, and this call reflects on that, on APM's belief, that "when projects succeed, society benefits."

In 2015, all United Nations (UN) members adopted the 2030 Agenda, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to define the world's approach to growth and sustainable development. These goals have become a universal call to action aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the planet and advancing prosperity for all by 2030. In alignment with this global effort, APM's call seeks to emphasise the crucial role of research in driving the transformations needed to achieve the SDGs. By supporting innovative, evidence-based research in project management, APM aims to contribute directly to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda. **We therefore invite proposals that explore how project management can help achieve the 17 SDGs. Proposals should focus on one or more SDGs and should also be closely aligned with APM's strategy and research interests. International and UK applications are welcome.**

We aim to support early career researchers, including doctoral and post-doctoral scholars, assistant professors, lecturers and those in the early stages of their academic careers. We also welcome applicants in the final stages of their PhD with substantial experience. APM supports early career professionals at the outset of their careers, so they can strengthen their skills and expertise for professional growth and facilitate connections and networks within the research community.

If this grant does not align with your academic profile or research interests, please note that APM's main research fund will be announced in due course on our website. This research has a larger budget, providing funding for larger-scale studies, targeting experienced academics to develop their research proposals.

Key features

1. Grants Available: **Two grants of £10,000 each.**
2. Application Deadline: **Monday, 28 April**
3. Closely aligned with APM's strategy, this is the theme for this year's Early Career Research Fund:

Project Management Research for Sustainable Development

For instance:

- Evaluating Project Strategies for Advancing the UN SDGs
- Measuring and Reporting Project Impact on Sustainability Targets
- Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Development Projects
- Integrating Sustainability into Project Management Frameworks

4. To apply, please complete the Research Proposal Template [here] and send it to

research@apm.org.uk with the subject line “Early Careers Research Fund”, along with your most recent CV(s).

Eligibility criteria

- Open to early-career academics and researchers **worldwide**, typically within five years of professional experience in academia or research.
- The research fund is designed for early career researchers, including postdoctoral scholars, assistant professors, lecturers, and those in the early stages of their academic careers. Applicants in the final stages of their PhD are also welcome to apply, provided they have demonstrable experience in conducting independent research, publishing scholarly work or contributing to funded research projects.
- We welcome both individual and collaborative proposals, including interdisciplinary projects.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek support from senior colleagues within their institution or from other higher education institutions.
- Submissions from those not yet funded by APM are highly 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 [here].
- Email your proposal to research@apm.org.uk with the subject line "APM Research Fund Application".

Important Dates

- Applications Deadline: **Monday, 28 April**
- Results Announcement: **Monday 26, May**

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

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

- Researchers/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.
- 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 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

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 which the 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) 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, but outputs should be delivered within a year.