ACADEMIC FORUM FOR THE STUDY OF GAMBLING

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

ABOUT THE ACADEMIC FORUM FOR THE STUDY OF GAMBLING (AFSG)

The AFSG is a group of academic researchers in the UK dedicated to advancing the research needed to effectively prevent, reduce, and address gambling harm. The purpose of the AFSG is to act as a coordinated body to assert the importance of rigorous, independent research to prevent, reduce, and address gambling harm in the UK.

To accomplish its aims, the AFSG engages in a number of activities including, but not limited to:

- Responding to or initiating calls for evidence;

- Providing seed grants for promising research;

- Supporting independent gambling conferences;

- Public engagement; *and*

- Providing support for early-career researchers.

All AFSG activities and grants are funded from [regulatory settlements for socially responsible purposes](). The Gambling Commission reviews and approves proposals for destinations of regulatory settlements. Funds are administered by Greo.

On behalf of the AFSG, Greo is accepting applications for **Exploratory Research Grants.**

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ABOUT US

Greo is an independent knowledge translation and exchange organisation with two decades of international experience in generating, synthesising, and mobilising research into action, across the health and wellbeing sectors. Greo helps organisations improve their strategies, policies, and practices, by harnessing the power of evidence and stakeholder insight.

Our services include sourcing and synthesising evidence, creating knowledge and education products, facilitation and stakeholder engagement, data and knowledge management support, evaluation, and applied research.

Greo serves as an independent platform that provides financial, governance, and intellectual property oversight for organisations seeking to fund research investigating the impacts of their programmes, policies, and practices or how to improve them. Greo does this by helping organisations to conceptualise their research needs and managing the end-to-end engagement—from solicitation to the review and awarding of funds to project oversight. This results in a rigorous and transparent process that minimises bias, manages confidentiality, strengthens the integrity of the findings, and respects the intellectual freedom of researchers.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

PURPOSE

To develop capacity for research by providing funds to conduct preliminary/exploratory research that will encourage innovation and increase the capacity of researchers to compete successfully for other, larger, research awards and other funding sources. Such projects can include, but are not limited to:

- Secondary analysis of existing data
- Pilot and feasibility studies
- Development or testing of instruments
- Development of research methodology
- Small, self-contained research projects

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be affiliated with a UK university.

Funding must flow to an eligible UK institution.

CONDITIONS

The research project under consideration must demonstrate that it is rigorous, independent research that directly or indirectly informs efforts to address gambling-related harm.

VALUE AND DURATION

Three grants are available. Each grant can last up to 12 months.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should prepare an application according to the instructions below and email it as a single PDF to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 25 February 2022 at 5:00pm (GMT).

MAJOR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANT

One Major Exploratory Research Grant is available. It is valued at up to £80,000 and is intended to be used for a major project and is open to all researchers.

MINOR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

Two Minor Exploratory Research Grants, valued at up to £25,000, are available. These grants are intended to fund smaller exploratory research. Preference for these grants will be given to early career researchers.[1]

Timeline

13 January 2022	Call for applications announced
1 February 2022	Notice of intent (NOI) deadline[2]
25 February 2022	Application submission deadline
18 March 2022	Notification to applicants (funding to commence soon after)
31 March 2023	Project completion date

[1] An early career researcher is a researcher within five years from the date of their first research-related appointment, minus eligible delays in research. Research-related appointments are defined as those where the individual has the autonomy to conduct research independently and all eligible leaves (e.g., maternity, parental, medical, bereavement) are credited as twice the amount of time taken, and professional leaves (e.g., training, sabbatical, administrative) are not credited.

[2] For the NOI, please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca indicating:

(1) which award you are planning on submitting for;

(2) a list of anticipated project team members; and (3) the organisation to which funds would flow (if successful).

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Deliverables

Upon completion of the project the applicant must complete a summary report of findings that will be posted to the AFSG website with a link to Greo's Evidence Centre. The summary report will undergo peer review and will be posted after any revisions have been completed. Copyright remains with the author. A Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND license will be applied. Authors are encouraged to submit a separate article to an academic journal. All project outputs should include the following text: "The author(s) wish to acknowledge the Academic Forum for the Study of Gambling (AFSG) for providing funding for this project [insert project number here]. The views expressed are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the AFSG."

Resulting Data

If data are collected, the dataset and accompanying documentation must be deposited in a publicly available data repository such as the Open Science Forum, UK Data Service, or the Greo data repository within one year of project completion. In the spirit of open science, the data and metadata will be made available for review and secondary analysis.

APPLICATION PROCESS

How to prepare the application

The application should include:

1. TITLE PAGE
2. ABSTRACT
3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL
4. SYSTEM SUPPORT, ACCESS, ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS
5. APPLICANT'S CURRICULUM VITAE
6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT
7. APPENDICES (IF APPLICABLE)
8. BUDGET AND TIMELINE

1   TITLE PAGE

Please include the following:

- Applicant name and contact information
- Institutional affiliation
- Start and end date of the proposed research project

2   ABSTRACT

Please provide a summary abstract (max. 300 words) that includes:

1. Purpose and significance;
2. Rationale;
3. Methodology; and
4. Potential implications of the proposed research.

3   RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The project proposal section requirements are detailed in Appendix A: Evaluation Criteria. The proposal is not to exceed four-single spaced pages, minimum 11 pt font size (excluding references and appendices).

4   SYSTEM SUPPORT, ACCESS, ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

System support

Describe the academic/research support available from your institution. Include both financial and 'in kind' contributions, if applicable.

Feasibility

Please describe any potential barriers to completing your project and how you plan to overcome them. For example, if the proposed research will require access to gambling sites, suppliers, slots laboratory or staff, have you gained access/approval?

Ethical considerations

Indicate whether ethics approval for the project will be needed. Where required, applicants must obtain research ethics approval and funding is conditional upon ethics approval being granted.

5   APPLICANT'S CURRICULUM VITAE

Submit the most current version of the Principal Investigator's curriculum vitae.

6   CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Please include a Conflict of Interest statement pertaining to financial support during the past five years. This should include any funding received, employment with, or financial or non-financial interests that could be reasonably perceived as directly or indirectly influencing the work described above. If the applicant is affiliated with a stakeholder organisation (e.g., third sector charity), a transparency statement for the organisation must also be provided.

7   APPENDICES (IF APPLICABLE)

Additional information may be submitted to support the application. Appendices are limited to a maximum of five (5) pages. When including more than one appendix, please combine into a single PDF.

8   BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Complete the downloadable [budget summary and timeline template](). Complete the budget summary template. Allowable budget expense categories include personnel, equipment, supplies, human subjects, and travel expenses. Refer to the expense guidelines. Include a timeline for the proposed research.

HOW TO APPLY

Notices of intent (NOI)

Please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca by February 1, 2022 at 5:00pm (GMT) indicating:

(1) which award you are planning on submitting for;

(2) a list of anticipated project team members; and

(3) the organisation to which funds would flow (if successful).

The email subject should be "NOI: AFSG Major Exploratory Research Grant" or "NOI: AFSG Minor Exploratory Research Grant".

Full application

The full application package should be sent as one continuous PDF email attachment to afsg-funding@greo.ca by February 25, 2022, at 5:00pm (GMT). The email subject should be "APPLICATION: AFSG Major Exploratory Research Grant" or "APPLICATION: AFSG Minor Exploratory Research Grant".

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Questions and comments can be submitted to: afsg-funding@greo.ca

EVALUATION AND SCORING

Following an initial screening for completeness, Greo will send the applications to reviewers. These reviewers may be internal or external to the AFSG. Provided no conflicts of interest exist (see conflicts of interest section below) the reviewers will review the applications according to the criteria described in Appendix A: Evaluation Criteria. Reviews will be forwarded to a working group of at minimum two AFSG members (appointed by the AFSG Co-Chairs) who will review the evaluations submitted by the peer reviews and make a decision.

Once the Forum has determined the successful applicants, Greo will administer and manage the grants. Text-based comments will be shared with all applicants, but not numeric scores. Unsuccessful applicants will be encouraged to resubmit to the next funding call using feedback from the peer reviewers to strengthen the proposal.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To ensure that decisions are fair and objective, reviewers, or members of the AFSG working group will not participate in review of or funding decisions of proposals submitted by:

1. A student they supervise;

2. A person who has supervised them;

3. A person with whom they have coauthored or shared a grant in the past three years;

4. A person with whom they have had long-standing scientific differences; or

5. A person with whom they have a close personal friendship.

APPENDIX A: EVALUATION CRITERIA

PROPOSAL COMPONENT (VALUE)	SECTION CRITERIA	EVALUATION CRITERIA
Purpose (10%)	**Purpose:** Clearly state the purpose of the proposed research and the specific research questions that will be addressed.	Degree to which the purpose of the proposed research is clearly stated and the clarity of the research questions. /10
Literature review and significance (10%)	Briefly review the literature related to your submission and describe how the proposed research will fill information gaps.	Degree to which the review describes how the proposed research will fill information gaps. /5
	Describe the ways in which the proposed research will make an important contribution or add value to the gambling and health landscape by either directly or indirectly reducing the harms associated with gambling.	Degree to which the proposed research is likely to make an important contribution to the gambling and health landscape by either directly or indirectly reducing the harms associated with gambling. /5
Methodology (30%)	Describe in detail the proposed methods (qualitative or quantitative) that will be used to address the purpose and answer the research question. This includes, but is not limited to, how participant recruitment will be accomplished, how data will be collected, and any relevant ethical considerations.	Degree to which the proposed methods will address the purpose of the research and answer the research questions. /30
Analytical Strategy (15%)	Describe the analytical strategy to be conducted including how the proposed analysis will address the purpose of the proposed research, and	Degree to which the analytical strategy addresses the purpose of the proposed research and answers

PROPOSAL COMPONENT (VALUE)	SECTION CRITERIA	EVALUATION CRITERIA
	specifically how each of the research questions will be answered.	the research questions. /15
Knowledge mobilisation plan (10%)	Briefly describe the knowledge mobilisation plan. Knowledge mobilisation can take many forms and should not consist solely of conference presentations and peer reviewed publications. For example, integrated knowledge mobilisation is an approach characterised by researchers and research users working together to shape the research process. In contrast, end of grant knowledge mobilisation includes typical dissemination and communication activities undertaken by most researchers (conference attendance, presenting research results, publishing papers, etc.).	Degree to which the knowledge mobilisation plan is appropriate for the proposed research. /10
Budget and feasibility including team capacity and infrastructure (25%)	Project budget and timeline should be included in the downloadable template provided. *Note: If planning to publish in a peer reviewed publication, applicants are required to include open access fees in the budget submission.*	Degree to which budget breakdown logically reflects proposed project work. /10 Degree to which the project appears feasible within the timeline. /5 Team capacity and Infrastructure. /10