

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS GRANTS

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1. 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 several 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 Evidence Insights (Greo).

More information about AFSG funding can be found [here](#).

On behalf of the AFSG, Greo is accepting applications for **Secondary Data Analysis Grants**.

2. ABOUT GREO EVIDENCE INSIGHTS

The AFSG receives administrative and logistical support from Greo Evidence Insights. Greo Evidence Insights (Greo) is an independent, not-for-profit, research and knowledge translation and exchange organization with over two decades of international experience generating, synthesizing, and mobilizing research into action across the health and wellbeing sectors, with a particular expertise in gambling. One way Greo does this is 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.

More information about Greo Evidence Insights may be found [here](#).

3. APPLICATION OVERVIEW FOR SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS GRANTS

3.1 PURPOSE

To conduct analyses on high-quality datasets that assess the relationship between gambling involvement and gambling related harm. Proposed analyses should be generalisable to the UK.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY

3.2.1 Individuals and organisations.

Applicants must be members of the AFSG. AFSG membership is free-of-charge and open to anyone affiliated or working with a UK university who is interested in conducting or co-creating independent research on gambling-related harm. See the [AFSG Membership webpage](#) for further details.

Funding must be administered by a UK university.

3.2.2 Conflicts of Interest¹

Each member of the research team is required to complete and sign a Conflicts of Interest (COI) declaration form (see Section 10: Conflicts of Interest Declaration Form). Applications that include research team members with Significant COIs are **ineligible to receive funding**. Research teams that include members with Other Potential COIs are eligible for funding. These conflicts must be declared and will be graded by peer reviewers when the applications are evaluated (see Section 9).

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the following represent Significant COIs:

- if you have been an employee, contractor, partner, or principal working with the gambling industry² in the last 5 years.
- if you have investments³ in (valued at more than £5,000 overall) or commercial business interests associated with the gambling industry. This includes, but is not limited to stocks, bonds, commercial business interests such as partnerships, board memberships, etc.

¹ Elements of this section are drawn from the World Health Organization's "Declaration of Interests for WHO Experts"

² For the purposes of this conflicts of interest declaration, the gambling industry is defined as for profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include state owned-monopolies, regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from the proceeds of gambling.

³ This excludes mutual funds, pension funds, or similar investments that are broadly diversified and on which you exercise no control.

- if you have provided expert opinion as part of a regulatory, legislative, or judicial process on behalf of the gambling industry in the last 5 years.
- if you or your research unit or organisation has received compensation, financial support, or research funding (not including regulatory settlement funds) or other sorts of gifts or compensation directly from the gambling industry to consult, advise, conduct research, or provide any other service in the last 5 years.

The following represents Other Potential COIs that also must be declared:

- if you have worked for an organisation with an interest related to the gambling industry in the last 5 years. This includes, but is not limited to state owned-monopolies, regulators, or other governmental bodies overseeing or administering gambling-related regulation, policies, funding, etc.
- if you or your research unit or organisation have received research support or other sorts of gifts or compensation from an organisation with an interest related to the gambling industry in the last 5 years. This includes but is not limited to: a state monopoly, a regulator, an organisation that distributes funds provided voluntarily by the gambling industry, an organisation that distributes funds extracted involuntarily from the gambling industry, an industry-related levy or international equivalent.
- if you have intellectual property rights that may be enhanced or diminished by the outcome of the proposed research.

3.3 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.

Applicants are asked to declare all other funds they have secured that will support the proposed research. Preference will be given to projects that have no existing funding.

Applicants previously funded by the AFSG are eligible for funding. The timeline for previously AFSG funded research cannot overlap with the application timeline. Applicants must demonstrate previously funded AFSG research will be completed by the start date of the proposed research.

The AFSG encourages the involvement of Experts by Experience (EbE) or Lived Experience Experts (LEE) in all stages of the research process. Applications which demonstrate involvement and specific considerations of EbE/LEE will be given preference during the adjudication process.

3.4 VALUE AND DURATION

3.4.1 Award Amount

Two awards will be granted, valued at up to £20,000 each, depending on the scale of the project (including all expenses, direct and indirect, and all applicable taxes).

3.4.2 Duration

The duration of the project is 12 months. Unless otherwise indicated, projects will start on 2 September 2024 and must be completed no later than 2 September 2025.

3.5 APPLICATION PROCESS

Expression of interest (EOI): Please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 16 April 2024 at 23:59 (BST) following the EOI instructions outlined in Section 7.1.

Potential applicants who do not send an EOI by the deadline **will not be considered for funding**.

Full application: Applicants should prepare an application according to the instructions in Section 6 and email it as a single PDF to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 14 May 2024 at 23:59 (BST). The email subject should be "APPLICATION: AFSG Secondary Data Analysis Research Grant".

4. ABOUT THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Two Secondary Data Analysis Grants are available, valued at up to £20,000 each. Applicant funding requests must be proportionate to the requirements of the research proposed, which is expected to vary by research approach and scope of proposal activities.

These funds must be used to conduct analyses on high-quality datasets that assess the relationship between gambling involvement and gambling related harm. Proposed analyses should be generalisable to the UK. Newer datasets are preferred. Some UK based datasets and documentation are available free of charge from the [UK Data Service](#).

4.1 TIMELINE

22 March 2024	Call for applications announced
16 April 2024	Expression of interest (EOI) deadline (23:59 BST)
14 May 2024	Application submission deadline (23:59 BST)
15 July 2024	Notification to applicants
2 September 2024	Estimated project start date
2 September 2025	Estimated project completion date

5. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

5.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A Mid-Term Report will be required to demonstrate the progress of the project. The submission date of this report should be included in the application timeline and should be approximately at the halfway point in the timeline. The Mid-Term report will be submitted to the AFSG Research Committee and Executive Committee for review.

Mid-Term Reports should be approximately one-page long, detail the progress of the project, and identify any planned deviations from the originally proposed research. Proof of pre-registration, in the form of a pre-registration link, must be included in the Mid-Term Report unless the application indicated that pre-registration of the hypotheses was not appropriate (see Section 5.3.1). A template for the Mid-Term Report is provided in Section 11.

5.2 DELIVERABLES

Upon completion of the project the applicant must complete a Final Report to summarise findings that will be posted to the AFSG website, with a link to Greo's [Evidence Centre](#). A template of the Final Report is provided in Section 11. Early career researchers can opt to receive feedback on their report from members of the AFSG Research Committee.

Copyright of this report 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."

5.3 OPEN SCIENCE

The AFSG encourages open science practices such as pre-registration, data sharing, open code, etc.

5.3.1 Pre-registration

Applicants should include a plan to pre-register information about their project in an open, online registry. If pre-registration of the hypothesis is not appropriate, please explain why it is not.

6. HOW TO PREPARE THE APPLICATION

The application should include the following sections in order in one single PDF document:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Research proposal
- System support, feasibility, ethical considerations
- Applicants' curricula vitae (maximum 2 pages per CV)
- Completed COI forms
- Budget and timeline
- Appendices (if applicable)

6.1 TITLE PAGE

Please include the following:

- Study title
- Primary contact information (i.e., principal investigator(s))
- Name and address of the research organisation to which, if successful, funds will be directed
- Names of members of the research team
 - contact information
 - institutional affiliations
- Dataset name
- Start and end date of the proposed research project
- Total budget amount requested
- A statement indicating that no member of the research team has any significant conflicts of interest (see Section 3.2.2 for a description of significant COIs)

6.2 ABSTRACT

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

- Purpose and significance;
- Rationale;
- Methodology; and
- Potential implications of the proposed research

6.3 RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The project proposal section requirements are detailed in Section 9: Evaluation Criteria. The proposal is not to exceed three single-spaced pages, minimum 11 pt font size and 1"/2.54cm margins (excluding references, appendices, and other components of the application, such as the title page, abstract, ethical considerations, etc.). The proposal section should include:

- Purpose
- Literature review and significance
- Methodology and analytical strategy
- This section should also include information regarding open science practices (such as pre-registration) and involvement of EbE/LEE (if applicable).
- Knowledge mobilisation plan

6.4 SYSTEM SUPPORT, FEASIBILITY, & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.4.1 System support

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

6.4.2 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 restricted data have you gained access/approval? Are there any restrictions on the data that could impact the proposed research?

6.4.3 Ethical considerations

Describe the ethical considerations that must be considered in the proposed research and how will they be dealt with by the research team. If ethics approval is not considered

necessary, please provide an explanation why it is not. Note that when required, funding is conditional upon ethics approval being granted.

6.5 CURRICULA VITAE (2 PAGES MAXIMUM PER CV)

Submit the most current CVs for each member of the research team.

6.6 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

Each member of the research team must complete and sign the COI declaration (see Section 10: Conflicts of Interest declaration form).

6.7 BUDGET AND TIMELINE

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

In this section, please declare all other funds secured that will also be used to support the proposed research. If there are none, please declare.

6.8 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.

7. HOW TO APPLY

7.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 16 April 2024 at 23:59 (BST) indicating:

1. primary contact information (i.e., the principal investigator's name, email, and affiliation);
2. a list of anticipated project team members (names, roles, affiliation, and relevant expertise);
3. a statement indicating that no member of the research team has any significant conflicts of interest (as defined in Section 3.2.2)

4. suggestions for peer review (optional). In Section 8 we describe in detail the peer review and adjudication process including the criteria used to determine the eligibility of peer reviewers. If you have suggestions for subject experts you believe will meet these inclusion criteria please provide their name(s) and affiliations. In addition, if there are peer reviewers you would like excluded from reviewing your work, please provide their name(s) and affiliations. Please note that, though suggestions are appreciated and will benefit the peer review process, making a suggestion in no way guarantees they will be selected for or excluded from the review committee or that they will or will not review specific applications.
5. the university to which funds would be distributed through (if successful).

The email subject should be "EOI: AFSG Secondary Data Analysis Research Grant".

Please note that we use EOIs to assemble an appropriate review committee. **Therefore, applicants who wish to be considered for a grant must submit an EOI by the deadline above.**

7.2 FULL APPLICATION

The full application package should be sent as one continuous PDF email attachment to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 14 May 2024, at 23:59 (BST). The email subject should be "APPLICATION: AFSG Secondary Data Analysis Research Grant".

7.3 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS/WEBINARS

After the successful applicants have been selected, they may be invited to present their research proposal to the AFSG Executive Committee. Successful applicants may also be asked to present the results of their research in a short webinar after the project completion date. The AFSG Executive Committee, and possibly other members of the AFSG, will attend these webinars.

Successful applicants may be asked to present their research project at an AFSG researcher session at the Current Advances in Gambling Research Conference.

7.4 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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

8. PEER REVIEW AND ADJUDICATION PROCESS

A peer review committee will assess the quality of the research and potential for impact. In constructing the committee every effort will be made to ensure it includes a diversity of perspectives and expertise. These reviewers may be internal or external to the AFSG. Though there will be a preference for peer reviewers from the UK, we may also seek peer reviewers from the international community. The steps in the peer review and adjudication process are outlined below:

1. Once all EOIs have been received, Greo will review each to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria (see Section 3.2). No quality assessment will be done at this stage and provided all EOIs meet eligibility criteria all will be peer reviewed.
2. All potential peer reviewers will be contacted by Greo and screened for COIs (see Section 3.2.2). Those who have significant conflicts of interest will be excluded. In addition, potential peer reviewers will be asked to declare any prior relationships they have with grant applicants. Reviewers will not participate in the review of, or funding decisions for, applications submitted by:
 - A student they are supervising or have supervised;
 - A person who has supervised them;
 - A person with whom they have co-authored or shared a grant in the past three years;
 - A person with whom they have had long-standing scientific differences; or
 - A person with whom they have a personal friendship.

Provided they meet the screening criteria described above, they will be invited to review applications. This process will continue until we have a minimum of three reviewers that can review each application. All peer reviewers will be offered honorariums for their efforts.

When the full application packages are received, the applications will be sent to peer reviewers for independent review. Each reviewer will be provided with the evaluation rubric available in Section 9: Evaluation Criteria and will be asked to conduct their review by assigning a score to each section and by providing written comments.

3. After each reviewer has independently reviewed each application, Greo will aggregate the reviews. and forward them 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 discuss the evaluations. Members of the working group will not participate in

the funding decisions for applications on which they are named, or for applicants who meet the criteria outlined under point 2, above. The working group will self-select a chair. All applications will be rank ordered by score. During the meeting the working group chair will steer the group to a consensus decision regarding which applications to fund, based on scores and written comments. During this process the scores, comments, and group discussion will be considered when deciding which applicants will receive the awards.

4. 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.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

PROPOSAL COMPONENT (VALUE)	WEIGHT	SECTION CRITERIA	EVALUATION CRITERIA
Purpose	10%	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.
	10%	Describe the ways in which the proposed research will make an important contribution or add value to the gambling 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 landscape by either directly or indirectly reducing the harms associated with gambling.
Methodology and analytical strategy	40%		
	15%	Identify and describe the proposed dataset. Include a description regarding how the proposed dataset can address the purpose of the research.	Degree to which the proposed dataset is appropriate and capable of addressing the purpose of the research and answering the research questions.
	5%	Describe the appropriateness of the pre-registration plan (or explanation) and involvement of EbE/LEE (if any).	Degree to which the pre-registration plan (or explanation) and involvement of EbE/LEE (if any) are appropriate and described clearly.
	20%	Describe the analytical strategy to be conducted including how the proposed analysis will address the purpose of the proposed research, and specifically how each of the research questions will be answered.	Degree to which the analytical strategy addresses the purpose of the proposed research and answers the research questions.
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	Degree to which the knowledge mobilisation plan is appropriate for the proposed research.

PROPOSAL COMPONENT (VALUE)	WEIGHT	SECTION CRITERIA	EVALUATION CRITERIA
		<p>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.).</p>	
<p>Budget and feasibility including team capacity and infrastructure</p>	<p>15%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>5%</p>	<p>Project budget and timeline should be included in the downloadable template provided.</p> <p>Note: If planning to publish in a peer reviewed publication, applicants are required to include open access fees in the budget submission.</p>	<p>Degree to which budget breakdown and timeline appear feasible, appropriate, and logically reflect the proposed project work.</p> <p>Team capacity and infrastructure.</p>
<p>Team conflicts of interest</p>	<p>5%</p>		<p>Degree to which the research team includes members with other conflicts of interest (see Section 3.2.2). For this assessment, scoring should be made as follows: 10 represents no or minimal conflicts of interest reported among the application team and 0 represents greater conflicts of interest.</p>

10. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION FORM

	Y	N
Significant Conflicts of Interest		
In the last 5 years, have you been an employee of the gambling industry. ⁴		
Do you have investments ⁵ in (valued at more than £5,000 overall) or commercial business interests associated with the gambling industry. This includes, but is not limited to stocks, bonds, commercial business interests such as partnerships, board memberships, etc.		
In the last 5 years you have provided expert opinion as part of a regulatory, legislative, or judicial process on behalf of the gambling industry. ⁴		
In the last 5 years have you or your research unit or organisation received research support or other sorts of gifts or compensation from the gambling industry ⁴ to consult, advise, conduct research, or provide any other service.		
Other Potential Conflicts of Interest that also must be declared		
In the last 5 years have you worked for an organisation with an interest related to the gambling industry. This includes, but is not limited to state owned-monopolies, regulators, or other governmental bodies overseeing or administering gambling-related regulation, policies, funding, etc. that distributes funds provided voluntarily by the gambling industry, an organisation that distributes funds extracted involuntarily from the gambling industry, or an industry-related levy or international equivalent.		
If so, please provide a brief description:		

⁴ For the purposes of this conflicts of interest declaration, the gambling industry is defined as for profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include state owned-monopolies, regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from the proceeds of gambling.

⁵ This excludes mutual funds, pension funds, or similar investments that are broadly diversified and on which you exercise no control.

	Y	N
In the last 5 years, have you or your research unit or organisation received research support or other sorts of gifts or compensation from an organisation with an interest related to the gambling industry. This includes but is not limited to: a state monopoly, a regulator, an organisation		
If so, please provide a brief description:		
Do you have any intellectual property rights that may be enhanced or diminished by the outcome of the proposed research.		
If so, please provide a brief description:		
Please provide a description of how you plan to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest (optional). This information will be used by peer reviewers to assess your COI score.		

Name (Print):

Signature:

Date:

11. REPORT TEMPLATES

AFSG SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS RESEARCH GRANT MID-TERM REPORT [TEMPLATE]

Minimum report length: one page

DATE SUBMITTED:

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR:

INSTITUTION:

PROJECT TITLE:

PRE-REGISTRATION LINK (IF APPLICABLE):

ORIGINAL PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH PROJECT:

Please briefly summarise the original purpose of the research project (two-sentences)

MID-TERM UPDATE:

Please summarise progress on research project.

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:

Please clearly identify any significant deviations from the original methodology or scope of the research project. Please note that you must discuss such deviations with the AFSG Research Committee before, or as soon as, they occur, and that documenting such deviations in this report is meant to happen after these discussions have taken place.

AFSG SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS RESEARCH GRANT FINAL REPORT [TEMPLATE]

Minimum report length: two pages

DATE SUBMITTED:

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR:

INSTITUTION:

PROJECT TITLE:

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH PROJECT:

Please briefly summarise the purpose of the research project (two sentences)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Please include original research questions.

SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL STRATEGY:

Please include a summary of how this study was conducted. Please include significant deviations from the original methodology or scope of the research project.

KEY FINDINGS:

Please include the key findings of this research project.

IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILISATION:

Please include a summary of potential impacts of this research project and plans for publication and knowledge mobilisation.