

2015-2016 Call for Applications

Background and Purpose

The AFAANZ Research Fund (ARF) Annual Grants Program is designed to encourage and support AFAANZ members by providing funding for research projects. The grants are competitive, and are primarily intended to support small-scale projects of up to one year's duration or to assist in seed funding for larger scale projects. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to conduct the research proposed and show how the project will benefit the research profile of the individuals and the discipline. The pool of funds comes directly from fees paid by institutional members. As such, access to the ARF is limited to staff based at an Institutional Member.

Eligibility

The first named applicant must be a full-time employee at one of the Institutional Members of AFAANZ. If the first named applicant is not a current member of AFAANZ, then an application fee applies. Please contact AFAANZ at jonest@afaanz.org for more details. All applicants must hold academic positions (at least 50% appointments).

Successful applications may be awarded SIRCA/AFAANZ eligibility where such applications meet two criteria: use SIRCA data and the first named applicant is in an institution that is both a member of AFAANZ and SIRCA.

Successful applicants in 2014 are eligible to apply again in 2015, but priority will be given to unsuccessful applicants in 2014. Applicants must indicate clearly if they have applied (or intend to apply) for another grant for the same project in 2015.

Research Priority for 2015

Whilst remaining academic in nature, the 2015 round will focus on quality projects that address or respond to contemporary and future challenges to, and/or have implications for, accounting and finance practice, policy and/or the professions.

There are two categories of research grants

The first category of grants focuses on “mentoring of

developing researchers”, and must involve at least two applicants, the first being the “developing researcher” and the second being an “established researcher”, who takes on the role of research mentor in the context of the grant proposal. A “developing researcher” is someone who does not have more than two publications in refereed journals (including accepted for publication). These grants are for a maximum of \$7,500.

The second category of grants is for mid-career researchers who have more than two publications in refereed journals and hold an academic appointment below full professor. These grants are for a maximum of \$10,000.

Applications are encouraged from all areas of research in accounting and finance.

Funding

- ▶ AFAANZ research grants do not attract GST.
- ▶ Funding can be provided for time and resource support. However, teaching relief will not be supported.
- ▶ Conference attendance will not be funded.
- ▶ AFAANZ research grants specifically disallow infrastructure levies charged by universities
- ▶ Funds will be available for twelve months after the award of the grant from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and must be fully expended within that period.
- ▶ One application only per developing researcher will be eligible (although the established researcher may be associated with more than one grant).

Accountability

- ▶ A final report on the use of the funds and the outcomes of the project will be required within 60 days of completion of the project or 30 November 2016 at the latest. The format for this report is included later in this call for applications. Future grants to the applicant(s) will be conditional on the timely receipt of this report.

- ▶ Any working papers or published papers resulting from the research grant must acknowledge AFAANZ's funding.

Selection Process

A panel of assessors (normally comprising the AFAANZ Treasurer, the AFAANZ Board member(s) holding the Research Portfolio, and at least two academics of senior standing appointed by the Board) will rank all eligible applications. They will then make allocations of funds based on merit, to the limit of the annual funding pool (which may vary from year to year).

The criteria upon which the grants will be examined include:

- ▶ Quality of the research and the likely research outcomes, including its potential impact for practice or policy
- ▶ Extent to which the research project will enhance the applicants' and discipline research profile
- ▶ Extent to which the project is expected to result in publishable output
- ▶ Quality and clarity of the research application, including a research plan and a proposed budget.

The application must include written support from the Dean/Head of the relevant university organisational unit. Applications will not be accepted without this letter of support. A maximum of three grants will be made to each institutional member in this round. Partly funded applications and applications that are unfunded due to the institutional limit will be given feedback from the selection committee.

To assist those seeking to apply this year, exemplar applications from previous years which were funded will be available via the AFAANZ website. Note however, that this year's application format has changed and so such examples will only be broadly helpful.

Application Process

Complete applications comprise four components:

- (1) The Research Proposal (see "Content and Format of Research Proposals", below);
- (2) CVs of all researchers;
- (3) A Dean/Head supporting letter (signed electronically), including confirmation that teaching relief is permitted under university policy (if applicable); and
- (4) Applications from developing researchers should also include a supporting statement (signed electronically) from the established researcher of not more than two (2) pages. This statement should highlight key features of the developing researcher applicant's research history and her/his ability to successfully undertake the research. The statement should also indicate willingness and demonstrate an ability to mentor the project.

Complete applications, including supporting statements, must be submitted electronically, by the due date in a 'pdf' file, via email to ionest@afaanz.org with the subject: "AFAANZ Research Grant Application 2015-2016". If you do not receive a return email acknowledging receipt of your application within 2-3 days, please contact the AFAANZ office via email at ionest@afaanz.org or phone on +61-3-9349 5074.

Critical Dates

- ▶ Closing Date: midnight AEST, 22 April 2015
- ▶ Applicants Notified: 13 June 2015
- ▶ Formal Announcement of Successful Grants: AFAANZ Conference Second Plenary Session, 8 July 2015.

Enquiries

Enquiries should be directed to Millicent Chang by email at millicent.chang@uwa.edu.au

Content and Format of Research Grant Applications

All applications must be typed, on A4 paper using a minimum of 11-point font and minimum 2cm margins, and include the following details (with the exception of the “pitch” in item 5):

Title Page

The proposal is to have a title page, which should contain the following headings:

AFAANZ RESEARCH FUND – GRANT APPLICATION 2015-2016

- (1) Project Title
- (2) The name(s) of the researchers¹, their AFAANZ membership numbers (if applicable), and their employer-institution
- (3) Funds requested and the category of grant involved
- (4) Project Summary (100 words) – give a succinct explanation of the project in a manner that would be accessible to practitioners

Project Details

The main body of the proposal² is not to exceed **four (4)** pages in length. It should contain the following headings:

(5) Research Pitch – create a “pitch”, as follows:

- Visit SSRN and download the latest version of “Pitching Research” [Faff (2014)]:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2462059

- Using the advice given in the above paper, create a pitch using Faff’s two-page template on your chosen area of proposed research (10-point font)

- (6) Research Method
- (7) Budget and Budget Justification³
- (8) References

¹ Identify the developing researcher, if applicable

² Includes parts 5, 6 and 7

³ Each budget item must be justified and other sources of income are to be indicated

Reporting Format for Grant Outcomes (due 30 Nov 2016)

- (1) Name, Position, Contact Details for each applicant
- (2) Project Title
- (3) Updated Project Summary (500 words) including any variations between the project undertaken and the original application
- (4) Funds Granted
- (5) Detailed Report on Expenditure of Funds against Budget Items, with variations explained
- (6) Outcomes, for example, working papers, presentations and publications (give full details, including abstracts)
- (7) Future Intentions for this Project (give full details)
 - a. Conference submissions
 - b. Journal submissions
 - c. Grant applications
 - d. Projects
- (8) Summary of Outcomes and Benefits