



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business

IMA Research Foundation 2024 Call for Research Proposals

The IMA Research Foundation (IRF) is dedicated to funding relevant, thought-provoking research that furthers the knowledge and scope of accounting and financial management globally. To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$2,000,000 in research grants to academics and doctoral students. Click below to sample recently IRF-funded whitepapers:

- [The Naughty List or The Nice List? Earnings Management in the Days of Corporate Watchdog Lists](#)
- [Sustainability CFO: The CFO of the Future?](#)

The IRF is launching its 2024 Call for Research Proposals. Research in the areas described below is especially encouraged although other topics will be considered. Proposed studies can use basic or applied research methods including analytical, archival, experimental, survey, or case study.

Up to three (3) proposals received by the IRF will receive grants of up to \$20,000, based on an assessment of their potential to advance the practice of management accounting. Additionally, the Foundation will consider other proposals for grants, although these may be awarded at a reduced amount.

Grant proposal criteria:

- Proposals should meet the appropriate IRF proposal guidelines: [Guidelines for submitting research proposals](#). Other than the requirements described in the guidelines, doctoral students are required to follow the instructions below when submitting their research proposals:
 1. Select “Academic Grant” as the submission type in the [application portal](#).
 2. Submit a letter from the student’s dissertation chair or faculty advisor, or the director of the doctoral program indicating that the student has completed all required coursework, is currently in good academic standing, and a timetable indicating approximate dissertation or research project completion date. The letter should be uploaded to the “Other Documents” field in the application portal.
- Researchers will be expected to produce an approximately 3,000-word article or report for a professional audience.

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: March 1, 2024, 12:00 Midnight EDT. Winners to be announced by June 30, 2024.

Topics of interests include:

ESG/Sustainability

In the evolving landscape of finance and accounting, the integration of ESG/Sustainability considerations is becoming increasingly vital. Research in this area could delve into areas such as:

- The role of ESG in internal performance measurement (e.g., carbon footprint reporting, sustainability accounting standards, alignment with international guidelines).
- The evolution from traditional cost accounting to systems incorporating environmental costs (e.g., reclamation and carbon credits) and its impact on reporting and strategies.
- How ESG factors are integrated into management accounting practices across sectors, including government and nonprofit organizations, and how these factors are weighed against other performance measures.
- The influence of ESG considerations on the roles and responsibilities of accounting and finance professionals.
- The utilization of digital technology solutions for sustainable finance and ESG reporting.
- Models for assessing carbon footprint efficiency and societal benefits of emissions, alongside integrating carbon credits and pricing into financial planning and budgeting.

Technology

Technology is increasingly integral in transforming accounting and finance. The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), big data analytics, blockchain, and process automation is not only changing existing roles, but also creating new opportunities within the field. Research in this area could explore several pertinent topics:

- The impact of technologies (e.g., AI, ML, big data analytics, blockchain) on management accounting practices, strategy, and the accounting/finance function.
- How the integration of real-time, unstructured data and innovative technologies can enhance process improvements and strategic performance.
- Evolving technological skill sets required, existing skill gaps, and strategies to address these gaps effectively.
- Implications of digital transformation on the collaboration between the accounting/finance function and other organizational divisions.
- Ethical, governance, and risk considerations in the era of AI.

Talent/Pipeline

The area of talent management in the accounting and finance profession presents numerous potential research opportunities, with a focus on how the evolving landscape of industry affects recruitment, training, and retention of talent in our profession. Key research areas in this domain could include:

- Data-driven strategies for recruiting, training, and placement in the accounting and finance profession, coupled with the impact of data analytics and advanced technologies on talent development and retention.
-

- The role of technology, such as AI, data analytics, and automation, in reshaping talent requirements and work dynamics in accounting and finance.
- The preparation and development of accounting and finance professionals for the future (e.g., evolving talent requirements, diversity, equity and inclusion considerations, and strategies to attract more talent to the profession amidst declining enrollment in accounting degree programs).

*Please submit applications through the [IMA Application Portal](#) by **March 1, 2024**. Questions regarding this call or other IRF grant programs can be sent to Dr. Susie Duong, Senior Director of Research & Thought Leadership, at research@imanet.org*
