



PMI Academic Resources Opens Call for Research Proposals

PMI is pleased to announce its 2012 Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2013 research funding on topics related to project, program, or portfolio management (PPPM). Although the body of research in the field has grown significantly in the past several years, PPPM remains a relatively young area of academic inquiry and continues to be ripe for research that will advance knowledge and inform practice.

We encourage thoughtful and innovative proposals on any topic, with few notable exceptions. We discourage submissions focused on mathematical/operations research topics with little or no direct application. This includes research whose rationale does not stem from real world issues or that does not include empirical testing on actual projects. We will entertain proposals on macro level perspectives such as knowledge transfer across projects.

Examples of topics that offer opportunities for detailed exploration include program management, standards development, the role of PPPM in government, non-profit organizations, NGOs, international development, health care and education. In addition, the recent spate of nuclear, mining, and natural disasters affecting global populations invite attention in terms of mobilizing aid relief and community reconstruction. The failure of projects—an often quoted statistic—presents an opportunity for essential learning. PPPM in high risk industries provides another under-explored area of interest.

PMI values quality research with no bias toward the use of one methodology over another. Methodology should be properly matched to the research question. Quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches are given equal consideration provided that the selected methodology produces the data to achieve the project aims and that it is sufficiently elaborated in the proposal. Studies that use phenomenological methods such as case studies and action research are welcome as are those that take a positivist, hypothesis-based approach. Whatever the approach, the methods selected should be well-grounded and practically-achievable.

We accept both conceptual and applied research. Proper theoretical grounding of the research question is important to a successful outcome. Applicants are reminded to identify the gaps in the relevant literature that the proposal aims to fill and/or how the research results will build on existing work. Applied research proposals should target a recognized managerial problem which must be clearly stated in the submission. In past proposals there has been some uncertainty about how “close to market” or “practitioner-ready” the outcomes of applied research are. Some outcomes will yield fairly short-term results, others more long-term, akin to “basic research”, which will establish the basis for future impacts. Thus, applicants should consider and address the “readiness for application” of the eventual research findings.

We hope to attract proposals from scholars, both within and outside the field of project management (e.g. management and/or its sub-fields, organizational psychology, sociology, education, linguistics, communications, etc.) whose work has direct application to some aspect of the project management body of knowledge or its practice. In addition, we encourage research proposals from multi-disciplinary teams of investigators or teams consisting of academics and practitioners, who can potentially bring new ways of thinking and related bodies of literature to the field.

PMI is also exploring the funding small educational projects. In this category we seek proposals in three areas: the development of teaching cases in project management; the design of advanced courses in some aspect of project management; and, the development of an undergraduate introductory course on managing the temporary organization, specifically geared toward teaching in liberal arts colleges. Proposals for teaching cases must include plans for the inclusion of detailed teaching notes. A very limited number of grants are available in this category. Educational grants will not exceed US\$10,000 and the timeline for these project proposals will be limited to one year. Proposals should follow posted formatting instructions and the overall submission guidelines but the 3-page proposal body can be organized as the applicant wishes.

Preliminary proposals will be accepted between 1 February and 25 April 2012. Investigators whose proposals advance to the second round will be notified by 10 July 2012. Awards, up to US \$50,000 in the research grant category and US\$10,000 in the educational grant category will be announced by November 2012. Funded projects begin on 1 January 2013.

For detailed information on eligibility criteria, the application process and submission guidelines, please visit [Submit a Research Proposal](#). Questions should be addressed to the **Research Coordinator** at research.program@pmi.org.

Please check this RFP for more information as it becomes available.