



**Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand**

## **RESEARCH FUND**

### **2020 – 2021 Call for Applications**

#### **Background and Purpose**

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The AFAANZ Research Fund (ARF) Annual Grants Program is designed to encourage and support members by providing funding for research projects. The 2020 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. 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 proposed research 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 AFAANZ members based at a member institution.

#### **Eligibility**

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The first named applicant must hold a full time academic appointment 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 [info@afaanz.org](mailto:info@afaanz.org) for more details.

Successful applicants in 2019 are not eligible to apply in 2020. Applicants must indicate clearly if they have applied (or intend to apply) for another grant for the same project in 2020.

#### **Categories**

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There are four categories of research grants. The first category 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. Mid-career research grants with a full professor listed on the research team will not be considered.

The second category 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 defined as someone who does not have more than two publications in refereed journals (including accepted for publication) or have graduated with a PhD within the prior two years. The “established researcher” may be at any academic level, including full professor. These grants are for a maximum of \$7,500.

A third category of Research Development Grants is intended to build research skills and capacity among AFAANZ members. Applications for the above two categories of grants that are deemed to require further development in motivation, research design of method will be considered for a Research Development Grant. Grant money will be applied by AFAANZ for the applicants to attend AFAANZ approved masterclasses (including AFDEN classes) or training programs.

The fourth category of grants is open to Special Interest Groups. Where there are consistent themes in research grant applications, SIGs are encouraged to pool resources to apply for a grant. These grants will not be limited in the maximum value, but are intended to award a larger amount of funding to a SIG to coordinate more efficient use of research resources. Research grants issued to SIGs will not be limited in the personnel eligible to be listed in the research team.

Applications are encouraged from all areas of research in Accounting and Finance.

## **Funding**

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- AFAANZ research grants (for Australian recipients) attract GST (exempt for New Zealand) and will be paid on receipt of a tax invoice.
- Funding can be provided for resource support such as research assistance and databases. Teaching relief will not be supported.
- Conference attendance (including travel and accommodation costs) 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 2020 to 30 June 2021 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 application).

## **Accountability**

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- 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 2021 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**

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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 assess 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; and
- 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 can 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 by the selection committee.

## Application Process

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The application process is managed through the following website:

<https://PitchMyResearch.com/grants>

From there you will be given the choice to start a new application or continue with any existing applications.

Complete applications will comprise:

- (1) A summary of the project proposal including the category of grant involved, the project title, the project summary, and research methods;
- (2) The name(s) and contact details of the researchers, their career statuses (developing, mid-career, or established researchers), their AFAANZ membership numbers (if applicable), their employer-institutions, and their CVs (uploaded in PDF format);
- (3) A research pitch in the format of “Pitching Research” [Faff (2014)] available from SSRN:

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2462059](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2462059)

NB: For qualitative projects, the web portal will give researchers the option to change from the default format to use Lodhia’s adaptation of Faff’s “Pitching Research” framework [see Lodhia (2017) available from *Accounting & Finance*:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/acfi.12266/pdf>

- (4) A budget with justification of each item; and
- (5) Appendices (uploaded in PDF format) including:  
A Dean or Head supporting letter (signed electronically), and

For developing researcher applications: 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 ability to undertake the research successfully. The statement should also indicate willingness and demonstrate an ability to mentor the project.

The website provides further guidance with each section, and it allows you to save your work and return to continue editing it as many times as you like prior to submission. There is a “download PDF” button which will combine all parts of your application into a single PDF document so you can see it at any time. You should preview this before submission.

Your complete application must be submitted through the website on the “submission” tab, and you will receive an email acknowledgement with time stamp.

## Critical Dates

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- Closing Date: **30 April 2020 at 23:59 AWST**
- Applicants Notified: 26 June 2020
- Formal Announcement of Successful Grants at the AFAANZ Conference Second Plenary Session, on 6 July 2020.
- Reports due 30 November 2021

## Reporting Format for Grant Outcomes

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Reports are due **30 November 2021** and are to be submitted in the below format:

- (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