APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT 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 Postgraduate Research Support 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 organisation with over two decades of international experience generating, synthesising, and mobilising 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 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS

3.1 PURPOSE

Support is available to PhD students and to those who hold postdoctoral positions to offset the costs of conducting research that directly or indirectly informs efforts to address gambling-related harm.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY

3.2.1 Individuals and organisations.

Applicants must be registered as a PhD student or hold a postdoctoral research position with a UK university. Applicants must also 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 Interest.[1]

Applicants are required to complete and sign a Conflicts of Interest (COI) declaration form (see Section 9: Conflicts of Interest Declaration Form). Applicants with Significant COIs are ineligible to receive funding.

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 industry[2] in the last 5 years.
- if you have investments[3] 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.

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.

3.4 VALUE AND DURATION

Postgraduate Research Support Grants are valued at £3,300 and can last up to 12 months.

3.5 APPLICATION PROCESS

Expression of interest (EOI): Please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 19 August 2026 at 23:59 (BST) following the EOI instructions outlined in Section 7.1. The email subject should be "EOI: AFSG Postgraduate Research Support Grant".

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 23 September 2026, at 23:59 (BST). The email subject should be "APPLICATION: AFSG Postgraduate Research Support Grant".

4. TIMELINE

29 July 2026	Call for applications announced
19 August 2026	Expression of interest (EOI) deadline (23:59 BST)
23 September 2026	Application submission deadline (23:59 BST)
19 October 2026	Notification to applicants
2 November 2026	Project start date
2 November 2027	Project completion date
16 November 2027	Summary report due

5. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

5.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants are requested to send a short Summary Report of their project to afsg-funding@greo.ca two weeks after the project completion date. A template for the Summary Report is provided in Section 10.

5.2 DELIVERABLES

In addition to the Summary Report, successful applicants will 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.

5.3 OPEN SCIENCE

The AFSG encourages open science practices such as pre-registration, data sharing, open code, etc. Pre-registration of research hypotheses and data sharing are encouraged; however they are not required.

6. HOW TO PREPARE THE APPLICATION

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

- Title page
- Outline of project
- Current funding situation
- Completed conflicts of interest form
- Letter of support from PhD supervisor or postdoctoral line manager

6.1 TITLE PAGE

- Please include the following:
- Applicant name and contact information
- Name and contact information of applicant's academic supervisor
- Name of the UK University the applicant is affiliated with
- Dated signatures of:
    - Applicant
    - Applicant's Supervisor

6.2 OUTLINE OF PROJECT (TWO PAGES MAXIMUM)

Provide a brief summary of the research project(s) you will be working on. Include information on the:

- Purpose of the research project(s)
- Methodology
- Status of the project(s) (i.e., ongoing, completed, or planned)
- Timeline of tasks
    - Start and end dates of the project(s)
    - A high-level estimated timeline of key tasks required to complete the research project (e.g., ethics application, data collection, analysis, writing, completion)
- Results of the project(s) either anticipated or realised

6.3 CURRENT FUNDING SITUATION

Please include:

- A brief summary describing any other sources of funding you will be in receipt of during the application funding period.
- A brief paragraph describing how the funds will help you complete the research project described above.

6.4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FORM

Each applicant must complete and sign the COI declaration form (see Section 9: Conflicts of Interest Declaration Form).

6.5 LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM PHD SUPERVISOR OR POSTDOCTORAL LINE MANAGER

Please include a letter of support from your PhD supervisor or postdoctoral line manager (one page maximum).

7. HOW TO APPLY

7.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Please send an email to afsg-funding@greo.ca by **19 August 2026** at 23:59 (BST) indicating:

1. applicant name and contact information;
2. name and contact information of applicant's academic supervisor; and
3. the university to which funds would be distributed through (if successful).

The email subject should be "EOI: AFSG Postgraduate Research Support Grant".

Please note, **applicants who wish to be considered for a grant must submit an EOI by the deadline above.**

7.2 FULL APPLICATION

The full application should be sent as one continuous PDF email attachment to afsg-funding@greo.ca by 23 September 2026, at 23:59 (BST). The email subject should be "APPLICATION: AFSG Postgraduate Research Support Grant".

7.3 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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

8. REVIEW PROCESS

A working group of at minimum two AFSG members will review and evaluate applications according to the following criteria:

- Overall fit of research project(s) with the purpose of the funding program
- Quality of proposed research
- Need
- Letter of reference

Applications will be scored on a scale of one to five for each of the criteria above using the following scale:

Excellent	**5**
Very Good	**4**
Good	**3**
Acceptable	**2**
Not Acceptable	**1**

9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION FORM

Significant Conflicts of Interest	Y	N
In the last 5 years, have you been a contractor, partner, or principal working with the gambling industry?[4][5]		
Do you have investments[6] 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.		

Name (Print):

Signature:

Date:

[4] Applicants with special circumstances who are deemed ineligible based on their response to this question may submit a written request for reconsideration. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Research Committee

[5] 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.

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

10. REPORT TEMPLATE

ACADEMIC FORUM FOR THE STUDY OF GAMBLING POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANT SUMMARY REPORT [TEMPLATE]

Report length: 2–5 pages

DATE SUBMITTED:

PHD OR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER:

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR:

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.

RESULTING DATA (IF APPLICABLE):

If applicable, please indicate which publicly available data repository the collected data has been deposited. Please include applicable links.