



THE OLYMPIC  
> STUDIES  
CENTRE

## Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme

Objectives, rules and  
guidelines

2023/2025 Award

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## 1. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Olympic Studies Centre (OSC)'s grant programme is to promote advanced humanities or social sciences research by experienced researchers in priority fields of research identified annually by the IOC.

A secondary objective of this programme is to encourage the applicants to consult the OSC's collections, and thereby bring added value to the research.

### FOR THE 2023/2025 EDITION, THE PRIORITY FIELDS OF RESEARCH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### Athlete safeguarding, mental health and wellbeing

- Safe Sporting Environments – Empirical research into athletes', coaches' and sports organisations' experiences to determine evidence-based interventions to safeguard athletes of all ages from all forms of in-person and online violence, harassment, discrimination and abuse in sport. Investigations could cover: prevention, education, and remedy and recourse mechanisms (e.g., evaluation of a reporting mechanism). Priority will be given to research with/about: vulnerable populations; adult athletes; the prevalence and incidence of violence, harassment, discrimination and/or abuse in different sports across understudied regions; and research with an athlete-centred approach.
- Elite Athlete Mental Health Support Services - Research that evaluates the effectiveness of the implementation of elite athlete mental health support services at international and/or national events and/or in daily training environments.
- Elite Athlete Mental Health Literacy - Research that identifies good practices and/or leads to recommendations about improving mental health literacy among athletes, entourage members and sports organisations. Particular interest in cross-cultural case studies including female and male athletes from different sports.

#### Ethics and integrity

- Ethics and integrity rules implementation - Analysis of the means and methods (including evaluation) implemented by the International Sports Federations and the NOCs to convey and apply the ethics and integrity rules established by the Olympic Movement, namely the [Code of Ethics](#), the [Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance](#) and the [Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions](#).

### Gender equality

- Women's involvement in sports organisations - Sports organisations' initiatives to improve women's actual attainment of roles and positions, in particular leadership, across the organisations' administration and governance – Analysis of good practices/policies that include empirical evidence of change/improvements within NOCs and national sports federations in the Global South.
- Male and female uniforms at the Olympic Games – Origins, evolution and discourse around the differentiated uniforms for male and female athletes at the Olympic Games – Sociological, cultural and ethical considerations.

### Olympism 365 – Development through sport and sport's contribution to the sustainable development goals

- Research on the contribution of community sport and sport for development projects, programmes and policies towards the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prioritised in the [IOC's Olympism 365 strategy](#):
  - Sport, education and livelihoods (related to SDGs 4 and 8);
  - Sport, equality and inclusive communities (related to SDGs 5 and 10);
  - Sport, health and active communities (related to SDGs 4 and 11);
  - Sport, peace and safe communities (related to SDG 16)

We encourage proposals that:

- Examine the impact of COVID-19, climate change and/or the growing cost of living crisis on the contribution of sport to the above-mentioned areas
  - Focus on emerging economies and developing countries and/or
  - Compare sport-based approaches with other types of interventions (e.g. youth work, Information, Communication and Technology-based interventions, etc.)
- Analysis of the strength of policy procedures and institutional capacity in particular national/regional community sport systems or sport for development initiatives with national or regional scale in the following areas:
    - Safeguarding and prevention of harm and abuse in sport;
    - Equitable, inclusive and accessible approaches as a prerequisite for strengthening the role of sport as an enabler of sustainable development;
    - Environmental sustainability; and/or
    - Blending sport with cultural, art and educational approaches.

We encourage proposals that focus on emerging economies and developing countries.

- Safe sport in humanitarian crises - Investigation of the role that safe sport can play in humanitarian crises and in supporting the needs of young people affected by displacement (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people and host communities), as part of a holistic response to forced displacement. Particular focus on the role of safe sport supporting protection, mental health and psychosocial well-being, social inclusion and social cohesion, as well as the factors that enable and inhibit the contribution of sport. (For more information, please refer to the "[Sport for protection Toolkit: People in Forced Displacement Settings](#)" created by UNHCR, the IOC and Terre des hommes).
- Sports values-based education initiatives addressed to at-risk young people – Analysis of existing initiatives in regions and/or countries, and assessment of their impact.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

All university professors, lecturers and research fellows who have completed their doctorate and who currently hold an academic/research appointment/affiliation covering the period of the grant (from submission of the application to delivery of the final report) are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit a proposal directly linked to at least one of the priority fields of research listed above. Research projects will be accepted only if the applicants clearly demonstrate that the results will be relevant to the current situation of the priority field concerned. Applications within a natural science focus (e.g. biomechanics, physiology, medicine, neurosciences, etc.) fall outside the scope of this programme.

Other eligibility criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

- Applicants must be fluent in either English or French.
- Applicants may apply on an individual basis or as a team.
- In the case of team applications:
  - one academic member of the group should be nominated as the coordinator and remain the main contact person for the OSC;
  - all research group members have to fulfil all the eligibility criteria. However, in special circumstances, a maximum of one project member may be a representative of a sports organisation, government body or another non-academic institution if their contribution is essential to the project and is clearly justified;
  - interdisciplinary and intercultural team applications are encouraged.

These eligibility criteria will be strictly applied.

## 3. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted in either English or French, the two official languages of the Olympic Movement.

Completed application files must include the following documents:

1. [Official application form](#) duly completed (see "[Instructions for completing the Research grant Programmes application forms](#)").
2. Current and official recognition of employment (appendix 1), including the academic/research status validated by the applicant's university using the institutional

letterhead (in the event of a team application, a certificate is needed for each member).

3. In the event of a team application, a brief curriculum vitae (appendix 2) (maximum 2 pages per member), providing basic information about education, former and current academic responsibilities, and employment history of the member(s) working with the coordinator on the project.
4. If the research proposal involves collaboration with other partners/organisations, letter(s) of support confirming their commitment (appendix 3) should be provided.
5. If the research proposal involves interviews, surveys or any other methodologies that involve human subjects, a certificate stating that the project has been reviewed and approved by the university's ethics committee (appendix 4) should be provided.

The deadline for submitting applications is **Monday 30 January 2023**. After the deadline, incomplete or new applications will not be accepted. The OSC will send a candidature acceptance confirmation email by Monday 6 February 2023.

## 4. GRANT AWARDS

Successful applicants will receive a research grant of a maximum of USD 40,000 per project. The total amount to be awarded will be decided by the Grant Programme Selection Committee after having analysed all the elements of the application.

### EXPENSES COVERED

Research expenses directly related and essential to the project as follows:

- Travel (economy class) and living expenses when outside the applicant's place of residence and other expenses related to essential field research;
- Translation costs for relevant research materials;
- Web hosting and development;
- Workshops and focus groups;
- Expert third-party services;
- Other relevant research expenditure.

Research assistance will be funded when essential and properly justified. The applicant's time devoted to the project should be at least equal to or exceed that of the research assistant. Details of the number of days and tasks to be performed at a daily rate must be provided.

Expenses related to the dissemination of the applicant's research results (e.g. open access publication and participation in conferences) are accepted up to a maximum of 15 per cent of the total budget.

### EXPENSES NOT COVERED

- Salary and/or fringe benefits, including insurance;
- Tuition and study fees;
- Institutional overheads or institutional support;
- Expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the grant;
- Purchase of technological material (laptop, camera, etc.).

The grant will be paid through the academic institution of the successful applicant (coordinator) with the following schedule: half when the Research Project Agreement has been signed, one-quarter after submission of the second progress report, and one-quarter on receipt and validation of the final research report.

## 5. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The Grant Programme Selection Committee is composed of experts who are internationally renowned for their involvement in Olympic studies, and OSC representatives. The IOC administration and a selection of peer reviewers are also involved in the [selection process](#). Decisions are based on the quality of the application file, the significance of the proposed research to at least one of the priority fields of research, the relevance of the expected outcomes for the IOC's programmes and/or activities, the feasibility of the project and the candidate's/candidates' ability to carry out the research satisfactorily.

The same criteria will be taken into consideration by the OSC to determine the maximum number of grants available each year.

**Applicants will be notified of the results of their application in June 2023.**

To find a detailed description of the evaluation and selection process and the pool of peer-reviewers who have contributed to the programme in the past, please consult [our website](#).

## 6. PUBLICATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS

All grants are conditional upon signature of the "Research Project Agreement" ("Agreement") by the successful applicant, or the coordinator in the event of a team application), and his/her university. The Agreement describes the terms and conditions of the collaboration between the grant-holder, his/her university and the Olympic Studies Centre. Applicants, or coordinators in the event of team applications, are requested to read the [Agreement](#) and inform their university about its terms before submitting an application.

Grant-holders will have to schedule three meetings with the IOC administration involved in the project: one at the beginning of the research, to ensure a common vision on the research to be conducted and share any relevant information; one in the middle of the project, to review preliminary findings; and the last one after submission of the final report, to comment on the outcomes. For those grant-holders not requiring consultation of the OSC collections, the meetings will be organised online. For those planning to consult the OSC collections, it is highly recommended that they combine one of the meetings with the IOC staff and their visit to the OSC in a single trip to Lausanne. The OSC will schedule their visits in consultation with them.



Grant-holders will undertake to provide the OSC with the following documents (electronic version), in either English or French:

- Two progress reports every seven months after signature of the agreement, describing the project's development (2,000 words maximum) and a general overview of the expenses incurred thus far.
- A final research report before mid-June 2025. The final report, which the OSC may use for publication, will consist of three documents with the following content:
  1. First document (approx. 50 – 60 pages):
    - An abstract (200 words maximum) and a list of key words;
    - An executive summary including a short description of the research topic and objectives, and highlighting the main findings, conclusions and, if appropriate, recommendations (approx. 1,200 – 2,000 words);
    - The report including the research topic and objectives; the methodology applied; and a detailed presentation of the findings, conclusions and, if appropriate, recommendations of the research project;
    - The annexes, including any additional information of interest for the project.
  2. Second document:
    - A PowerPoint and an infographic presentation summarising the objectives, methodology and findings of the research project.
  3. Third document:
    - A financial accounting report for all funds provided by the OSC. This last part must be sent in a separate document ([template](#) provided by the OSC).

Grant-holders will undertake to publish/disseminate their research results within the academic world. They will also undertake to ensure that all subsequent publications or productions, using all or part of the results obtained under the auspices of the research grant, will appropriately acknowledge the IOC Olympic Studies Centre and the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme. In addition, they will share any such publications or productions with the OSC.

## 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SELECTION COMMITTEE

For the 2022/2023 Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme, the Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) received 30 applications and awarded 7 grants. The Selection Committee, responsible for recommending to the OSC which projects should be awarded a grant, was composed of the following experts:

- Mahfoud AMARA (Qatar University, Qatar)
- Dikaia CHATZIEFSTATHIOU (Canterbury Christ Church University, Great Britain)
- Marion KEIM LEES (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- Sigmund LOLAND (Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway)
- Hisashi SANADA (Tsukuba University, Japan)
- Benoît SEGUIN (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Tracy TAYLOR (RMIT University, Australia)

The Committee took into consideration the assessments provided by the relevant IOC departments and a selection of [academic reviewers](#).

### FULL LIST OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AWARDED GRANTS

The full list of research projects funded by the Olympic Studies Centre since the creation of its grant programmes in 1999 is available [here](#). The list is organised by theme, with links to the full text versions online when available.

## 8. SECRETARIAT

For any additional information concerning the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme, please contact the OSC [via email](#) or phone (+41 21 621 6611).

To find out more about the activities and collections of the Olympic Studies Centre, please consult [our website](#).