

2015 INDIVIDUAL GRANT COMPETITION

*** Announcement of The Actuarial Foundation's Research Committee, Actuarial Foundation of Canada, Casualty Actuarial Society and Society of Actuaries' CKER Grant Competition ***

Purpose	<p>The Actuarial Foundation's (TAF) Research Committee, the Actuarial Foundation of Canada (AFC), the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) and the Society of Actuaries' (SOA) Committee on Knowledge Extension Research (CKER) announce the 2014 Individual Grants Competition to support the advancement of knowledge in actuarial science. Grants will be funded through TAF, the AFC, the CAS and the SOA.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> This is the only solicitation for grant proposals; one application will be used to submit proposals to each organization. Each organization may award grants.</p>
Who may apply	<p>Individuals and groups may apply. Letters of intent are expected to come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>practitioners, usually where the research project is not part of their employment</i> b) <i>industry and university researchers embarking on a collaborative project</i> c) <i>academics, individual or as a team</i> <p>Graduate and undergraduate students are not eligible to apply individually, but may be part of a group in one of the above categories.</p>
Selection criteria	<p>The project may be either theoretical or empirical in nature. A key criterion for each funding organization is that the project should have the potential to contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge in actuarial science. When submitting your proposal, please include a thorough description of your research, the purpose of your research, and a thorough literature review of what your research builds upon. The budget should be reasonable and justifiable.</p> <p>TAF's Research Committee gives preference to projects relating to current policy issues or having direct applications, and those that further the basic or continuing education of actuaries. Proposals for innovative developments in actuarial education also are invited for consideration.</p>
Publication of research	<p>The end-product of the research is expected to be presented at an ARC meeting and submitted to the <i>North American Actuarial Journal</i> or <i>Variance</i> unless another journal has been pre-approved, or in the form of software, monograph, etc. In addition to describing the end product, mention should be made of why the proposed journal or other end product is appropriate to the project being proposed.</p>
Research contract	<p>The selected researcher and the sponsoring organization(s) will enter into a formal contractual arrangement. Oversight will be coordinated by the funding organization(s). The range of grants awarded over the past five years has been \$5,000-\$60,000 U.S., with a median of \$15,000.</p>
Intent to propose	<p>Interested parties must submit a brief letter of intent of no more than 2 pages outlining the nature of the research project, a rough estimate of the funding requirements, the anticipated distribution of results and the qualifications of the applicant(s). Letters should be submitted to Barbara Scott (bscott@soa.org) by October 18, 2014. We have found that it helps practitioners to have an academic researcher involved in the application and proposal. We are particularly excited about academic researchers working with practitioners and, in fact, encourage it.</p>
Application form	<p>Application forms will be distributed by November 22, 2014, to researchers being invited to submit proposals for funding consideration. Completed application forms are due by January 3, 2015.</p>
Awards	<p>Grant awards will be announced by March 14, 2015.</p>
Questions to	<p>Ron Gebhardtshauer, Chairperson of CKER; Phone: 814-865-4153; Email: rug16@psu.edu or Barbara Scott, SOA Research Administrator; Phone: 847-706-3592; Email: bscott@soa.org.</p>