



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

## RESEARCH FUND

### 2025 – 2026 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 2025 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 in duration or to provide 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 and be a current individual member of AFAANZ. For further information on institutional membership status or AFAANZ membership renewal or registration, please contact AFAANZ at [info@afaanz.org](mailto:info@afaanz.org).
- Successful applicants in 2024 are not eligible to apply in 2025. Applicants must indicate clearly if they have applied (or intend to apply) for another grant for the same project in 2025.
- In this round, only one application submitted by a developing researcher will be considered eligible. However, an established or mid-career researcher may be associated with no more than two applications.

#### **Categories**

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There are two categories of research grants. The first category is for mid-career researchers who have more than three publications in refereed journals and hold an academic appointment below full professor. These grants are for a maximum of \$8,000. 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 has no more than three publications in refereed journals (including those accepted for publication) or who has received a PhD within the past two years. The “established researcher” may be at any academic level, including full professor. These

grants are for a maximum of \$7,000. Established researchers who have received an AFAANZ Research Grant in 2024 are eligible to be included in this category.

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

## **Funding**

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- AFAANZ research grants attract GST 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 are expected to be used within twelve months after the award of the grant from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and must be fully expended within that period.
- The successful first-named applicant and the affiliated institute are required to submit the funding invoice to AFAANZ as requested by 31 December 2025 to ensure timely release of the awarded funds. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in forfeiture of the awarded funds.

## **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 the completion of the project or 30 November 2026 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 the completed and signed supporting letter 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 may be awarded to each institutional member in this round. Partially funded applications and applications that are not funded 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 option 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 signed supporting letter from the Dean/Head (template provided and signed electronically); and

For developing researcher applications: a supporting statement (signed electronically) from the established researcher of no more than one (1) page. 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 on each section, and it allows you to save your work and return to edit it as many times as you like prior to submission. There is a “download PDF” button that will combine all parts of your application into a single PDF document so you can view 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.

## The InSPiR2eS Global Pitching Research Competition of 2025

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The InSPiR2eS<sup>1</sup> research network and 2025 AFAANZ Research Grant scheme are partnering in segment of the InSPiR2eS Global Pitching Research Competition of 2025 (IGPRC2025)<sup>2</sup>.

- 2025 AFAANZ research grant scheme will be part of the IGPRC2025, where eligible early-career applicants can choose to enter the competition upon grant submission;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pitchingresearch.com/inspir2es-network/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pitchingresearch.com/competitions/>

- as per the 2025 IGPRC rules, and only those who serve as the Chief Investigator (CI) of the application can enter;
- Participation in the AFAANZ section of the IGPRC2025 is completely voluntary and requires the applicant's consent upon submission via the submission website.

## Critical Dates

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- Closing Date: **15 April 2025 at 23:59 AWST**
- Applicants Notified: 30 June 2025
- Formal Announcement of Successful Grants at the AFAANZ Conference Second Plenary Session, on 7 July 2025.
- Reports due 30 November 2026

## **Reporting Format for Grant Outcomes**

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Reports are due **30 November 2026** 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