



THE OLYMPIC
> STUDIES
CENTRE

Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme

Objectives, rules and
guidelines

2021/2022 Award

November 2020

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1. OBJECTIVE

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

- For the 2021/2022 edition, the priority fields of research are as follows:
 1. Analysis of the means and methods implemented by the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees to convey and apply the ethics and integrity rules established by the Olympic Movement, which are the [Code of Ethics](#), the [Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance](#) and the [Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions](#).
 2. Athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement – Opportunities and challenges to strengthen the rights and responsibilities of the athletes.
 3. Barriers and challenges faced by high-performance women coaches and referees in Summer and Winter Olympic Games sports from all continents - Research into the obstacles that women experience, as well as the identification of good practices that serve to attract and retain women as Games sports coaches and referees.
 4. Coaching and mentoring Generation Z athletes - How to coach young elite athletes (age range: 15-18), understand their expectations, develop constructive relationships with them, include values in their training, and identify challenges, skills and strategies to be favoured based on case studies, including various summer and winter sports from different continents.
 5. Contribution of the Olympic Movement, the sports sector and/or the sports development sector to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) – Case studies and analysis of the impact of sports initiatives, especially those organised at local level, and of their inclusion in a human rights-based approach.
 6. Development of a methodology for comprehensive longitudinal research on OCOG-led Olympic education programmes, their role and their potential impact in promoting Olympism locally (in the host country) and globally, and their contribution to the success of the Games and to creating lasting benefits for young people in the host territory.
 7. Intangible Olympic legacies – Examining the long-term changes initiated by hosting the Olympic Games or the Youth Olympic Games in terms of: a) skills, knowledge and networks; b) policy and governance; and c) intellectual property and its impact on Olympic (parent) brand. The studies should be empirical and look at Olympic Games editions, Youth Olympic Games editions or Olympic candidatures with at least a four-year “test of time” (i.e. editions from 2016 or before).

8. Main global opportunities, challenges and industry trends on the organisation and delivery of and participation in large-scale sports events:
- from an athlete's and event organiser's point of view, considering the growing impact of virtual and digital components ("phygital" experience)
 - from a sustainability point of view, as a result of the growing need for responsible and sustainable models
 - from an economic point of view, to address changing business models and revenue streams.
 - from a participant experience point of view (including spectators, staff and volunteers, coaches and referees, etc.), in light of the evolution of the social, demographic and health conditions.

Please note that we don't expect a single proposal to be able to cover all the different dimensions listed above.

9. Olympic legacy evaluation – Examining legacies using empirical, data-driven approaches. Priority will be given to studies looking at under-researched Olympic Games editions – Summer Games held in the period 1972-2004 and Winter Games held in the period 1968-2006 – and to Olympic candidatures. Candidates interested in the topic will find in the [Olympic World Library](#) a systematic review of academic publications on the legacy of the Olympic Games from 1896 to 2016 (see [here](#)).
10. Safe Sporting Environments - Research into athletes', coaches' and sports organisations' experiences from different sports and countries to determine evidence-based interventions to safeguard athletes from harassment and abuse in sport.
11. Sports organisations' initiatives to improve women's engagement across the organisations' administration and governance – Analysis of good practices and successful initiatives of NOCs and National Sports Federations in the Global South.
12. The economic dimension of the sports sector – Meta-analysis of studies already conducted assessing sport-related GDP and sport-related economic activity and employment.
13. The impact of the postponement of Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and other international sports competitions on athletes' mental health, sport performance and unexpected retirement – Case studies including various summer sports from different continents.
14. The place of sport and physical activity in the health sector as both prevention and primary healthcare tools against non-communicable diseases – Analysis of the trends of the political discourse and policies of national governments as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a particular interest in future Olympic Games host countries.
15. The role that Safe Sport can play in humanitarian crises and the impact of Safe Sport on refugee, internally displaced young people and host communities (impact on psychosocial well-being, mental health, social cohesion and social inclusion) - How Safe Spaces and Safe Sport contribute to protecting girls and boys. (For more information, please refer to the "[Sport for Protection toolkit: Programming with Young People in Forced Displacement Settings](#)" created by UNHCR, the IOC and Terre des hommes).

16. “Urban sports” as an opportunity to strengthen links between sport, art, culture and society – Case studies based on the “urban sports/disciplines/events” included in the Olympic programmes for Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 (skateboarding, BMX, breaking, basketball 3x3, sport climbing and surfing).

A secondary objective of this programme is to encourage the applicants to consult collections of the OSC, when they bring added value to the research.

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 only be accepted 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...) fall outside the scope of this programme.

Other eligibility criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

- Applicants must be fluent in either French or English.
- Applicants may apply on an individual or collective basis. In the second case, all research group members have to fulfil all the eligibility criteria. In addition, one member of the group should be nominated as the coordinator and remain the main contact person for the OSC. Interdisciplinary and intercultural collective 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 French or English, the two official languages of the Olympic Movement.

Completed application files must include the following documents:

1. The **official application form** duly completed.

The form is available through the [OSC website](#). Please note that [instructions for completing the Research Grant Programmes application forms](#) are available on our website.

2. **Current and official recognition of employment** including the academic/research status validated by the applicant's/applicants' university(ies) on the institutional letterhead (*Appendix 1*).
3. In the event of a **collective application**, a **brief curriculum vitae** (maximum 2 pages per member), providing basic information about education, former and current academic responsibilities and employment history of the member(s) collaborating with the coordinator on the project (*Appendix 2*).
4. If the applicant's/applicants' 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** should be provided (*Appendix 3*).

The deadline for submitting applications (which may only be sent [via the OSC portal](#)) is **1 February 2021**. After the deadline, incomplete or new applications will not be accepted. A candidature acceptance confirmation e-mail will be sent at the latest one week after the application is received.

4. GRANT AWARDS

Successful applicants will receive a research grant of a maximum of USD 20,000 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 PERMITTED

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;
- Translation costs for relevant research materials;
- Other relevant research expenditures.

Research assistance will be funded when essential and properly justified. Details of the number of days and tasks to be performed at a daily rate must be provided.

EXPENSES NOT PERMITTED

- 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) according to the following schedule: one-half when awarded, and one-half on receipt 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 of OSC representatives. The IOC administration and a selection of peer reviewers are also involved in the selection process. Decisions are based upon 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 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 by 7 June 2021**

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 the signature of the "Research Project Agreement" ("The Agreement") by the successful applicant, or the coordinator in the event of collective applications,) 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 collective applications, are requested to read the Agreement ([available here](#)) and inform his/her university about its terms before submitting an application.

Grant holders will have to schedule at least two meetings with the IOC administration involved in the project: one at the beginning of the research and a second one after submission of the progress report. For those not requiring the 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 in a single trip to Lausanne their meeting with the IOC staff and their visit to the OSC. 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 French or English:

- A **progress report** six months after notification of the award, describing the project's development (2,000 words maximum) and a general overview of the expenses incurred so far.
- A **final research report** before mid-June 2022. The final report, which may be used by the OSC for publication, will be made up 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 or 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 to be 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 with the OSC any such publications or productions.

7. 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](#).

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SELECTION COMMITTEE

For the 2020/2021 Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme, The Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) received 44 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:

- Marion KEIM LEES (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- Sigmund LOLAND (Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway)
- Ana Maria MIRAGAYA (Universidade Estácio de Sá, Brazil)
- Hisashi SANADA (Tsukuba University, Japan)
- Benoît SEGUIN (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Tracy TAYLOR (Victoria University, Australia) and
- Thierry ZINTZ (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium).

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

FULL LIST OF AWARDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

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 and with links to the full text versions online when available.