

RGT innovative applied research grants – invitation to tender (ITT)

The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) spends up to £1.5million each year to commission research from academics, institutions, charities, and commercial organisations. Projects are commissioned by RGT's independent Research Committee, primarily to deliver a research strategy determined by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board – the Gambling Commission's expert advisory panel. However, RGT funds additional research to further its charitable goals and the innovative applied research grant scheme aims to fund such research. This scheme provides researchers with the opportunity to bid for funding for innovative applied research that furthers RGT's charitable objects:

- A) The relief of those who are vulnerable or otherwise in need as a result of gambling in particular but not exclusively, by provision of counselling and advice; and
- B) The advancement of education for the benefit of the public by research into responsible gambling, the nature and causes of gambling-related harm and the effectiveness of treatments, and the publication of the results of such research.

Selection Criteria - This grant scheme is intended to support original and creative projects that help deliver or extend the National Responsible Gambling Strategy¹, within the bounds of RGT's charitable objectives, which are confined to Great Britain. All projects must have a sound rationale. RGT is open-minded about the methodological approaches to be used; however, they must be clearly and fully explained in the proposal. Proposals must demonstrate fit to RGT's objectives; or, in the case of smaller seed projects, potential fit and innovation. Multi-disciplinary bids are encouraged. The project should have a clear policy implication where possible and may or may not be trial based. If bids require an industry partner, RGT will endeavour to facilitate industry participation.

Budget – The total budget for this ITT is dependent on the quality of submissions received. Proposals can be submitted up to £100,000. Under exceptional circumstances, larger budgets will be considered. Applicants are invited to submit smaller more focused bids or larger more comprehensive bids. Smaller seed projects that may lead to larger projects in subsequent calls are welcomed. RGT is open to projects that are seeking funds additional to those that are already secured.

Tendering process and timetable - On receipt of the proposals, an RGT-selected panel will perform an evaluation of proposals, with a view to selecting one or more organisations to perform the research. Applicants may be required to attend a meeting to discuss any aspect of proposals.

Proposals must be submitted by **17.00hrs GMT on 31 October 2016** to the following e-mail address: commissioning@responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk. Any applications received after this date will be considered in the next call for proposals. RGT plans to make such calls once every six months.

The submission of tender documentation should include:

- A clear demonstration of the understanding of the proposer's research objectives
- A clear rationale for, outline of, and justification for proposed research methods
- A summary of key activities to support specified outputs
 - Outputs must include a report aimed at a general audience
- A timetable linked to key activities (e.g., GANTT chart)
- A summary of any proprietary intellectual property which will be used to carry out the research

¹ http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/media/1230/rgsb_strategy_2016-2019.pdf

- Full disclosure of costs, including number of days required for each task, day rates for different members of the research team, VAT (as relevant) and anticipated expenses
- A brief risk assessment with proposed remedies relating to identified risks
- A CV or brief biography for each member of the team.

Review Policies - RGT will assess applications against the following assessment criteria, with percentages indicating weighting:

- Scientific quality and feasibility of proposed project – 25%
- Relevance to RGT’s objects – 25%
- Potential practical impact and significance in Great Britain – 25%
- Value for money and justification for project costs – 15%
- Track record of applicant – 10%.

Terms and Conditions

Successful bidders will be required to agree to RGT’s standard contract. Key terms of that contract are set out below:

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from all locations; however, strong preference will be given to teams based in Great Britain. Those teams located outside Great Britain must ensure they specify, in their proposal, how they will manage communication during the project. Ensuring that results are applicable to Great Britain is a key criteria.

RGT is committed to delivering an independently commissioned research programme that focuses on gambling behaviour and the effectiveness of various treatment, prevention and education strategies in minimising gambling-related harm. This is intended to improve knowledge amongst all those involved in this issue, so RGT will wish to publish the results of the research it funds. Our requirements below in respect of intellectual property and confidentiality are intended to promote good project management, quality assurance and research integrity, and are not included in order to influence the independent conclusions of this research or its presentation.

Intellectual Property

- (a) The successful researcher will be required to assign to RGT all rights in and to any intellectual property created or arising from the work carried out by the researcher (or by the researcher’s employees or agents).
- (b) In the case of academic researchers, RGT will however grant to the researcher a royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to exercise such intellectual property rights in relation to project materials for the purposes of the researcher’s wider research activities.
- (c) RGT acknowledges that the researcher may own proprietary software, analytic tools and techniques which may not be assigned to RGT. Where such software, tools or techniques exist and will be used by the researcher in the proposed research, the researcher should provide details in its tender of the methodology, to be used in the proposed research highlighting clearly where such software, tools or techniques will not be assigned to RGT and/or may not be shared with the public.

Confidentiality and publicity

The successful researcher will be required to enter into a legally binding agreement with RGT which will contain, inter alia, confidentiality provisions pursuant to which the researcher will be required to:

- (a) keep confidential all intellectual property and know-how, including confidential commercial and financial information, disclosed by RGT to the researcher during the course of the research project;
- (b) not disclose to third parties without the express prior written consent of RGT any information arising from the work performed as part of the research project; and
- (c) ensure that all proposed publications are submitted to RGT for approval prior to publication with the expectation that approval will be given unless there are reasonable grounds not to do so.