Over the last few years UEFA has increasingly engaged with the academic community by establishing a series of initiatives that continue to provide research-based findings to help the European football family to reach more informed decisions. One such initiative is the UEFA Research Grant Programme.

Through this grant programme, UEFA is committed to supporting the ongoing work of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers investigating European football. UEFA's core mission is to develop European football at all levels of the game and promote the principles of unity and solidarity. Therefore, by shedding new light on football and the myriad ways in which it interrelates with society as a whole, quality research can help UEFA to fulfil its mission.

The UEFA Research Grant Programme is an excellent opportunity to encourage the work of both prominent and aspiring researchers working within the field of European football. It is thus with great pleasure that I encourage you to submit a research proposal to be taken into consideration by the UEFA Research Grant Jury.

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

Disciplines and research topics

The UEFA Research Grant Programme is designed to establish a series of awards of up to €20,000, for a period of nine months of research, to support the valuable work of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers studying European football.

Research proposals from the following research disciplines may be submitted for consideration by the UEFA Research Grant Jury:

- Law
- Economics
- History
- Management
- Political sciences
- Sociology
- Medical sciences
Although all research proposals concerning European football are welcome, proposals addressing the eleven UEFA priority topics listed below are especially encouraged. Proposals focusing on one of the specific topics listed in brackets will be given an even higher priority.

- A comparative perspective on European football (compared with other sports, other continents)
- Accreditation, ticketing and hospitality (best practices; how will people want to buy tickets in future; future economic and legal challenges of hospitality)
- Doping (food supplements and food contamination)
- Environmental issues in European football (reducing the environmental footprint of UEFA competitions)
- Evolution of the game (long-term trends from outside football which could affect its future development)
- Footballer’s optimum load (appropriate number of games per season)
- Format of UEFA club competitions (sporting and economic impact of a regional approach to qualifying rounds; competitive balance in group stages)
- Interactions between sports and state legal systems
- Management of football events (development of key performance indicators to assess operational activities)
- Participation in football across Europe (methodologies for comparable measurements)
- Women’s football (retention of players and other parties)

Eligibility

Candidates applying for a grant must either:

- have obtained a doctorate and currently hold a research position at a university or equivalent institution;
- be enrolled as a doctoral student at a university or equivalent institution and currently be preparing a doctoral thesis (the proposed research project must have a clear link with the field of research of the doctoral thesis).

Candidates’ applications and research projects must be written in one of UEFA’s official languages (English, French or German).

Further information and regulations

The official application form, together with the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations, is available on www.UEFA.com, in the section UEFA – Stakeholders – Universities. Applications must reach UEFA by 31 March each year in order to be considered for the subsequent Research Grant Programme cycle.

Applications that meet the requirements of the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations will be examined by the UEFA Research Grant Jury. This jury comprises a chairman, four representatives of the European football family and four academics known internationally for their work linked to European football. The jury will decide how many grants to award and the level of funding to allocate in each case.

Applicants will be informed of the jury’s decision no later than 30 June. The final report must be submitted by 31 March the year following approval of the grant. A subsequent presentation of the final report will take place at UEFA.

Applicants may not submit the same project proposal twice without having introduced significant changes. Nor may applicants submit more than one project during the same UEFA Research Grant Programme cycle.

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