



International Institute of Forecasters

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Announces SAS® Grants to Support Research on Principles of Forecasting for year 2008

Over twenty years of forecasting research has seen major changes in the theoretical ideas underpinning forecasting effectiveness. However, there has been less impact on forecasting practice. For the sixth year, after the award of three grants in 2003, two in each year 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, the IIF, in collaboration with SAS®, is proud to announce financial support for research on how to improve business forecasting principles and practice. This consists of two \$5,000 grants. Applications of not more than 4 pages should be submitted to the IIF Office by 30th September 2008. The application should include:

- A letter of support from the home institution where the researcher is based,
- A brief (4 page) c.v.,
- A budget and work-plan for the project.

Criteria for the award of the grant will include likely impact on forecasting methods and business applications. Although funding is not exclusively reserved for the following topics, please see the link below for a description of primary research needs:

<http://forecastingprinciples.com/paperpdf/Research%20Needs%20Spreadsheet.pdf>

Consideration will be given to the track record of the researcher and whether supplementary funding is likely to be gained. The awards will be made through a committee appointed by the IIF directors. The results of the application will be made within about 10 weeks of the closing date.

Grant recipients are required to author a paper reporting on their research for possible publication in the International Journal of Forecasting. In addition, the final reports will be posted on the IIF website.

Funding details

1. SAS® will provide \$10,000 per year to the IIF to fund two SAS® Forecasting Research Grants. These funds and the grants will be administered by the IIF.
2. These grants will be for targeted research that aims to improve the state of the art in forecasting methods and business forecasting applications. A committee appointed

by the IIF will designate research objectives, solicit proposals, award the grants, and oversee completion of sponsored research. The research objectives will be drawn largely from the "Research Needs" identified on the forecasting principles page, and the committee would have oversight on the specification of these needs.

3. The "methodology grant" will be directed to studies that assess the value of new or untested forecasting methods or principles. The "application grant" will be directed to studies on the application of forecasting principles to business decision processes. The grant committee will select research proposals to fill identified gaps in current knowledge so as to advance these two purposes: to enable better forecasts and to enable better use of forecasting by business organizations. Should there be a lack of suitable proposal in one of the areas; two grants could be made in a single area.

4. Grant recipients will author a paper reporting on their research and will be invited to publish the paper in the IJF. The IJF will provide peer review with the intention of improving the paper and authors would be expected to provide reasonable responses to the reviews. The papers should be identified as being the result of a SAS® Forecasting Research Grant. In addition to reporting the research, the papers will be accompanied by a note explaining the objective for which the grant was made and how the research results advanced that objective. The editor or a member of the grant committee would write a preface to the paper evaluating the contribution of the research toward the objective for which the committee sponsored it. This provision should advance the goal of encouraging journals to publish "useful" work. Besides, the authors will be encouraged to present the paper in the International Symposium on Forecasting to be held in 2010.

5. Payment of the full grant will normally only be made on receipt of a draft paper describing the research or against receipted expenditure.

6. The awards of the SAS® Forecasting Research Grants will be announced at the ISF general session and on the IIF website. This will advertise the program, call attention to the work of the recipients, and recognize SAS® as the sponsor. SAS® will also make announcements relative to these papers.

7. The grant committee will send an annual report (letter) to SAS® explaining how the money was spent.

Applications should be submitted in electronic format to:

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