



International Institute of Forecasters



## **The International Institute of Forecasters and SAS® Award Two \$10,000 Grants to Support Research on Forecasting for Year 2020-2021**

Forecasting research has seen major changes in the theoretical ideas underpinning forecasting effectiveness over the last 30 years. However, there has been less impact on forecasting practice. We aim to put this right. For the seventeenth year, the IIF, in collaboration with SAS, is proud to announce financial support for research on how to improve forecasting methods, and business forecasting practice, including organisational aspects of management of the forecasting process. This year's support will consist of a total of two \$10,000 grants in methodology and practice/management categories.

Applications should be submitted to the IIF Office by September 30, 2020. The application must include:

- Description of the project (at most 4 pages)
- C.V./resume (brief, 4 page max)
- Budget and work-plan for the project (brief, 1 page max)

Criteria for the award of the grant will include likely impact on forecasting methods and business applications.

Consideration will be given to new researchers, and whether supplementary funding is likely to be gained. It is also expected that the research supported by the SAS/IIF grant be presented in an International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF) organized by the IIF. The applications will be assessed through a committee appointed by the IIF directors. The results of the evaluation will be announced to the applicants within 12 weeks of the closing date.

Grant recipients are also required to author a paper reporting on their research for possible publication in the International Journal of Forecasting (IJF). Therefore it is useful to keep in mind the IJF suggestions for authors, <https://ijf.forecasters.org/authors/>.

### Funding details

1. SAS will provide \$10,000 per year to the IIF to fund two SAS Forecasting Research Grants, and the IIF will also support the grants with \$10,000 per year. 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.

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 and the management of the forecasting function. 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 submit the paper for potential publication 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.

5. It is expected that the applications should include a clear statement of the project's aims, together with an outline of how they are to be achieved. It should also contain a budget that may include a request for financial support to attend and present the paper in the International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF) to be held in 2021. To be consistent with the objectives of the IIF, the application should propose a scientific approach based on real data. This should normally include a comparison with other standard forecasting methods on withheld data. For prediction validations see, for instance, Makridakis, S., Wheelwright, S. C. and Hyndman, R. J. (1998), *Forecasting: methods and applications*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, John Wiley and Sons, or Diebold, F. X. (2007), *Elements of Forecasting*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Thomson South-Western.

6. Payment of the full grant will normally only be made on receipt of a draft paper describing the research and against receipted expenditure. This final report must be submitted within two years of the date from which the grant has been awarded. If the final report is not submitted within the first year of being awarded, the recipient must provide a progress report, indicating status and completion expectations.

7. 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 co-sponsor. SAS will also make announcements relative to these papers.

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

All applications should be submitted in electronic format to:

Pamela Stroud, Business Director, [forecasters@forecasters.org](mailto:forecasters@forecasters.org)