

Forecasting for Social Good Research Grant Guidelines
2024/25

1. Forecasting for Social Good Research Grant

The Forecasting for Social Good Research Grant (F4SGRG) can be used for:

- Research capability building in developing countries.
- Collaborative research activity on forecasting for social good leading to publications in top journals such as International Journal of Forecasting.
- Promote the use of forecasting for social good in practice.

F4SGRG aims to harness the collaboration between researchers and practitioners from developing and developed countries, to advance forecasting knowledge and use forecasting tools to inform decisions that prioritise the wellbeing of people and the planet. F4SG priority areas include (Rostami-Tabar et al., 2021):

- ***Social foundations:*** Water, food, health, education, income & work, peace and justice, political voice, social equity, gender equality, housing, networks and energy, etc.
- ***Ecological ceiling:*** Ozone layer depletion, ocean acidification, nitrogen and phosphorus loading, chemical pollution, freshwater depletion, land conversion, air pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, etc.

Specifically, when developing collaborative research ideas, it needs to be clear that the **research ideas are compliant to F4SG** (see Appendix 1) and:

- Focus on developing country problems;
- Enhance aspects of social foundations and/or ecological ceiling;
- Aim to promote the research collaboration between developing and developed countries; and
- Engage with decision makers in a local, national or international organization.

2. Application team and eligibility criteria

The grant will bring together three parties:

- i) a researcher based on developing countries which does not necessarily need to be an IIF member;
- ii) an IIF members;
- iii) Local, national or international organisations working in developing countries.

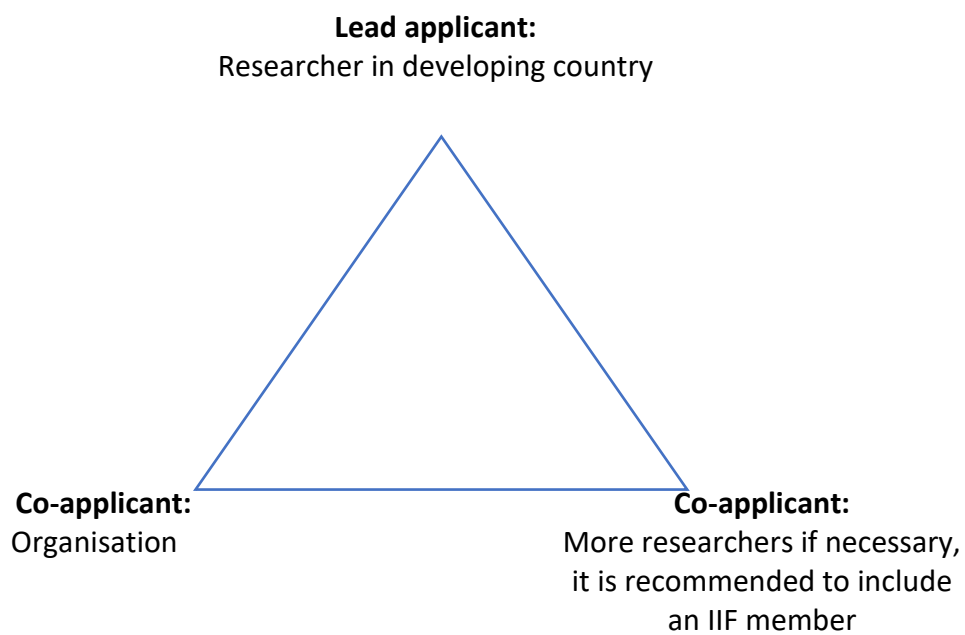


Figure 1: potential applicants

2.1. Lead applicant

The lead applicant must be based on a Low-income or Lower-Middle income country from one of the following regions:

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America & Caribbean
- South Asia
- Middle East & North Africa

Table 1: Eligibility criteria

Eligible lead applicants	Eligible co-applicants	Link
<p>Applicants based on</p> <p>a Low-income or Lower-Middle income country located in Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>Latin America & Caribbean</p> <p>South Asia</p> <p>Middle East & North Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIF member • Organisation • Applicants based on <p>a Low-income or Lower-Middle income country located in Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>Latin America & Caribbean</p> <p>South Asia</p> <p>Middle East & North Africa</p>	<p>Countries by income: see here</p> <p>Countries by region: see here</p>

2.2. Co-applicant

The application may have multiple co-applicants:

- One co-applicant must be from a local or national or international organisation that helps to define a real problem, provide the solution and engage in its implementation.

The following organisations have already agreed to support the project:

- Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA, the United Nations, Mr. Leonardo Milano, Predictive Analytics Team Lead, url: <https://centre.humdata.org/>
- United States Agency for International Development, Mr. Glenn Milano, Sr. Public Health Advisor, url: <https://www.usaid.gov/>
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Mr. Mo Hussain, Demand Forecasting Director EU, Europe Customer Supply Chain

- The application may have more co-applicants as necessary. We recommend including an IIF member as co-applicant.
- We suggest a list of IIF members who are willing to support the initiative by offering to be potentially involved in the project.

2.3. Eligible expenses

Eligible expenditure includes directly incurred research consumables, travel, subsistence, conference fees for the lead applicant.

2.4. The amount of grant and how it is released

Support is available up to \$5K, with the project to be concluded by 6 to 12 months from the start date of the project.

The money is given directly to the lead applicant, and it is released according to the following milestones:

- Grant awarded: \$2,500
- Presentation to IIF Board / ISF / Webinar: \$2,500

2.5. IJF Submission

Pierre Pinson and Shixuan Wang will review the report and a decision will be made with the lead applicant whether an article should be submitted to the IJF or not. See the IJF editorial:

<https://forecasters.org/blog/2020/03/11/ijf-editorial-pierre-pinson-editor-in-chief/>

2.6. Duration of the project

The grant will be awarded annually for a project of 6-12 months.

2.7. Project deliverables

Project deliverables include the following items:

- Final project report

- A presentation: to IIF board or in ISF or a Webinar
- A blog post to be published in IIF Blog
- Financial report

3. Submission process and funding decisions

Applications can be submitted any time up until the deadline by email to shixuan.wang@reading.ac.uk using the application form. The F4SGRG panel will typically meet within 4 weeks after each application deadline to make the decisions. The specific timeline is as follows:

Deadline for Submission	F4SGRG committee meeting	Indicative start date of award
30 January 2025	February 2025	March 2025

3.1 F4SGRG committee

The committee consists of the EiC of the International Journal of Forecasting, and the F4SG chair, and the F4SGRG lead. At the time of writing this is as follows:

- Pierre Pinson (IJF EiC)
- Michael D. Porter (F4SG chair)
- Shixuan Wang (F4SGRG lead)

Applications will be collected by Shixuan Wang, and they will be evaluated by the committee.

3.2 Multiple applications

An applicant may only be associated (as Lead or Co-Applicant) with one application per year and can be awarded a maximum of one project per year (as Lead- or Co-Applicant).

3.3 Co-funding

Applicants are actively encouraged to leverage co-funding from other sources to enhance and expand the proposed activities, where relevant. Applicants should clearly indicate any additional source of funding in the budget section of the application.

4. Risk Assessment

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant and co-applicants to assess potential risks related to travelling to and working in the country of choice. Please check your university or organisation guidance on Risk Assessment and before you start working on your application.

5. Queries

Please direct any questions or queries to Shixuan Wang (shixuan.wang@reading.ac.uk)

Appendix 1: FSG Compliance

All applications made to the FSGRG must make it clear that the research project's primary purpose is to promote the forecasting for social good in a developing country or countries.

Applicants should:

- Seek to investigate a specific forecasting problem related to social foundations and ecological ceiling;
- Seek a specific outcome regarding the social foundations and ecological ceiling which will have an impact on an organisation working in developing country or countries;
- Provide evidence as to why this is a problem for the developing country or countries;
- Use the research capabilities of other countries to address the issue, working in collaboration with others as appropriate;
- Demonstrate that the research is of an internationally excellent standard;

- Identify appropriate pathways to impact by engaging with an organisation (local, national or international) to ensure that the developing country benefits from the research.

To check for FSG compliance and respond to the relevant section in the application, the following questions should be considered:

- Is there a social foundation or ecological need that this forecasting project will help to address?
- is there evidence of the need?
- How would the forecasting be linked to the decision-making process in the organisation?
- What would be the impact of my project and who would benefit?
- How does my project contribute to Forecast for Social Good?
- Would this lead to improve social foundations in a developing country?
- How would the impact be measured in social foundation and/or ecological ceiling

References

1. Rostami-Tabar, B., Ali, M. M., Hong, T., Hyndman, R. J., Porter, M. D., & Syntetos, A. (2022). Forecasting for Social Good. *International Journal of Forecasting*.

arXiv preprint arXiv:2009.11669. link: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.11669>