



THE OLYMPIC  
> STUDIES  
CENTRE

## Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme

Objectives, rules and  
guidelines

2022/2023 Award

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## 1. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of The Olympic Studies Centre (OSC)'s grant programme is to promote advanced research with a humanities or social sciences perspective by established researchers in priority fields of research identified annually by the IOC.

- For the 2022/2023 edition, the priority fields of research are as follows:
  1. **Safe Sporting Environments** – Research into athletes', coaches' and sports organisations' experiences to determine evidence-based interventions to safeguard athletes of all ages from all forms of violence, harassment, discrimination and abuse in sport. Particular interest in vulnerable populations; adult athletes; using observational and ethnographic studies; research into prevalence and incidence of violence, harassment, discrimination and/or abuse in different sports across understudied regions; and interventions that follow an athlete-centred approach.
  2. **Elite Athlete Mental Health and Well-being** – Research that identifies good practices and/or leads to recommendations about improving mental health literacy among athletes, entourage members and/or sports organisations. Particular interest in cross-cultural case studies including female and male athletes from different sports.
  3. **Elite Athlete Mental Health** – Research that explores the implementation of elite athlete mental health support services at international and/or national events and/or in daily training environments, and evaluates these for effectiveness.
  4. **Olympians' livelihoods** – Research aimed at assessing average levels of physical and financial assets through a comparison of different low-, middle- and high-income countries, including different individual and team sports.
  5. **Coaching and mentoring Generation Z athletes** – How to coach young elite athletes (age range: 15-18), understand their expectations, develop constructive relationships with them, include values in their training, and identify challenges, skills and strategies to be favoured based on case studies, including various summer and winter sports on different continents.
  6. **Olympic legacy evaluation** – Examining legacies using empirical, data-driven approaches. Priority will be given to studies looking at under-researched Olympic Games editions – Summer Games in the period from 1972 to 2004, and Winter Games in the period from 1968 to 2006 – and to Olympic candidatures. Candidates interested in the topic will find in the [Olympic World Library](#) a systematic review of academic publications on the legacy of the Olympic Games from 1896 to 2016 (see [here](#)).
  7. **Post-Games use of Olympic venues** – Monitoring and evaluating the long-term uses of Olympic venues through a data-driven approach. The IOC has just completed a full inventory on the post-Games use of Olympic venues, identifying a need for further research on: a) capital investment and operational costs/revenues of venues or clusters of venues which hosted Olympic Games competitions, for long periods of time; and b) primary data on how often the venue is in use (expressed as occupation rate, number of events per year, and number of users/visitors).

8. Development of a methodology for comprehensive longitudinal research on [OCOG-led Olympic education programmes](#); their role and potential impact in promoting Olympism locally (in the host country) and globally; and their contribution to the success of the Games and to creating lasting benefits for young people in the host territory.
9. Analysis of the [NOCs' contribution through programmes and activities to create a better world through sport](#) (please refer to the Olympic Values World Programme in the [Olympic Solidarity 2021-2024 Plan](#)) – Trends, opportunities and challenges based on the study of a selection of NOCs of a range of sizes and cultures and from different continents.
10. Research that presents evidence of the [contribution of the Olympic Movement, the sports sector and/or the sports for development sector to the Sustainable Development Goals](#) – Case studies and analysis of the impact of sports initiatives, especially those organised at local level, and of their inclusion in a human rights-based approach.
11. Investigations of the [role that safe sport can play in humanitarian crises](#) and the impact of safe sport on refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced young people and host communities (impact on psychosocial well-being, mental health, social cohesion and social inclusion) – How safe spaces and safe sport contribute to protecting girls and boys. (For more information, please refer to the "[Sport for Protection Toolkit: Programming with Young People in Forced Displacement Settings](#)" created by UNHCR, the IOC and Terre des hommes).
12. Sports organisations' initiatives to improve [women's actual attainment of roles and positions, in particular leadership, across the organisations' administration and governance](#) – Analysis of good practices/policies that include empirical evidence of change/improvements within NOCs and national sports federations in the Global South.
13. Analysis of sociodemographic factors impacting the [retention and/or the dropout rate of vulnerable groups in sports at grassroots level](#) (e.g. women/girls, LGBTQI+, BAME, etc.) to suggest evidence-based interventions and measurable outcomes in an inclusive and safe environment.
14. Origins of the [differentiated uniforms for male and female athletes](#) at the Olympic Games – Sociological, cultural and ethical considerations.
15. Research on the [place of sport and physical activity in the health sector](#) – and/or in collaboration with the health sector – as both prevention and primary healthcare tools against non-communicable diseases, based on the analysis of the trends in the political/policy discourse of national governments' strategies and programmes as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular interest in future Olympic Games host countries.
16. The extent to which governments of recent and future [Olympic Games host countries](#) have sought to develop and make [use of sport and physical activity programmes](#) with multiple public and private stakeholders [for public health purposes](#). Research into how these programmes are developed and the degree of collaboration between the relevant stakeholders in the sport and health sectors in this context, as both a prevention and a primary healthcare tool against non-communicable diseases.

17. Analysis of the means and methods (including evaluation) implemented by the [International Sports Federations](#) and the [NOCs](#) to convey and apply the ethics and integrity rules established by the Olympic Movement, namely the [Code of Ethics](#), the [Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance](#) and the [Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions](#).
18. Historical, sociological and/or psychological analysis of [the relationship between sports practice and sports viewership](#) based on a series of cross-cultural case studies including different sporting contexts.
19. The [economic dimension of the sports sector](#) – Meta-analysis of studies already conducted assessing sport-related GDP and sport-related economic activity and employment.

A secondary objective of this programme is to encourage the applicants to consult collections of the OSC, when they bring added value to the research.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

All university professors, lecturers and research fellows who have completed their doctorate and who currently hold an academic/research appointment/affiliation covering the period of the grant (from submission of the application to delivery of the final report) are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit a proposal directly linked to at least one of the priority fields of research listed above. Research projects will only be accepted if the applicants clearly demonstrate that the results will be relevant to the current situation of the priority field concerned. Applications within a natural science focus (e.g. biomechanics, physiology, medicine, neurosciences,...) fall outside the scope of this programme.

Other eligibility criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

- Applicants must be fluent in either French or English.
- Applicants may apply on an individual or collective basis.
- In the case of collective applications:
  - all research group members have to fulfil all the eligibility criteria. However, in special circumstances, a project member may be a representative of a sports organisation, government body or another non-academic institution if their contribution is essential to the project and is clearly justified;
  - one academic member of the group should be nominated as the coordinator and remain the main contact person for the OSC;
  - interdisciplinary and intercultural collective applications are encouraged.

These eligibility criteria will be strictly applied.

### 3. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted in either French or English, the two official languages of the Olympic Movement.

Completed application files must include the following documents:

1. Official application form duly completed. Please note that both the [application form](#) and the [instructions](#) for completing the application are available on the [OSC website](#).
2. Current and official recognition of employment (appendix 1) including the academic/research status validated by the applicant's university on the institutional letterhead (in the event of a collective application, certificate requested for each members).
3. In the event of a collective application, a brief curriculum vitae (appendix 2) (maximum 2 pages per member), providing basic information about education, former and current academic responsibilities and employment history of the member(s) collaborating with the coordinator on the project.
4. If the research proposal involves interviews, surveys or any other methodologies that involve human subjects, a certificate stating that the project has been reviewed and approved by the university's ethics committee (appendix 3) should be provided.

The deadline for submitting applications is **31 January 2022**. After the deadline, incomplete or new applications will not be accepted. The OSC will send a candidature acceptance confirmation email by 7 February 2022.

## 4. GRANT AWARDS

Successful applicants will receive a research grant of a maximum of USD 20,000 per project. The total amount to be awarded will be decided by the Grant Programme Selection Committee after having analysed all the elements of the application.

### EXPENSES COVERED

Research expenses directly related and essential to the project as follows:

- Travel (economy class) and living expenses when outside the applicant's place of residence and other expenses related to essential field research;
- Translation costs for relevant research materials;
- Web hosting and development;
- Workshops and focus groups;
- Expert third-party services;
- Other relevant research expenditure.

Research assistance will be funded when essential and properly justified. Details of the number of days and tasks to be performed at a daily rate must be provided.

Expenses related to the dissemination of the applicants' research results (e.g. open access publication and participation in conferences) are accepted as up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total budget.

### EXPENSES NOT COVERED

- Salary and/or fringe benefits, including insurance;
- Tuition and study fees;
- Institutional overheads or institutional support;
- Expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the grant;
- Purchase of technological material (laptop, camera, etc.).

The grant will be paid through the academic institution of the successful applicant (coordinator) according to the following schedule: one-half when awarded, and one-half on receipt of the final research report. This schedule may be adapted on an exceptional basis if most of the expenditure related to the research is planned during the first six months of the project.

## 5. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The Grant Programme Selection Committee is composed of experts who are internationally renowned for their involvement in Olympic studies, and of OSC representatives. The IOC administration and a selection of peer reviewers are also involved in the selection process. Decisions are based upon the quality of the application file, the significance of the proposed research to at least one of the priority fields of research, the relevance of the expected outcomes for the IOC programmes and/or activities, the feasibility of the project and the candidate's / candidates' ability to carry out the research satisfactorily.

The same criteria will be taken into consideration by the OSC to determine the maximum number of grants available each year.

**Applicants will be notified of the results of their application in June 2022.**

To find a detailed description of the evaluation and selection process and the pool of Peer-reviewers who have contributed to the programme in the past, please consult [our website](#).

## 6. PUBLICATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS

All grants are conditional upon the signature of the “Research Project Agreement” (“The Agreement”) by the successful applicant, or the coordinator in the event of collective applications,) and his/her university. The Agreement describes the terms and conditions of the collaboration between the grant holder, his/her university and The Olympic Studies Centre. Applicants, or coordinators in the event of collective applications, are requested to read the [Agreement](#) and inform his/her university about its terms before submitting an application.

Grant holders will have to schedule at least two meetings with the IOC administration involved in the project: one at the beginning of the research and one after submission of the final report. If necessary, an additional one might be organised after submission of the progress report. For those not requiring the consultation of the OSC collections, the meetings will be organised online. For those planning to consult the OSC collections, it is highly recommended that they combine in a single trip to Lausanne their first meeting with the IOC staff and their visit to the OSC. The OSC will schedule their visits in consultation with them.



Grant holders will undertake to provide the OSC with the following documents (electronic version), in either French or English:

- A progress report six months after notification of the award, describing the project's development (2,000 words maximum) and a general overview of the expenses incurred so far.
- A final research report before mid-June 2023. The final report, which may be used by the OSC for publication, will be made up of three documents with the following content:
  1. First document (approx. 50 – 60 pages):
    - An abstract (200 words maximum) and a list of key words;
    - An executive summary including a short description of the research topic and objectives and highlighting the main findings, conclusions and, if appropriate, recommendations; (approx. 1,200 – 2,000 words);
    - The report including the research topic and objectives; the methodology applied; and a detailed presentation of the findings, conclusions and, if appropriate, recommendations of the research project;
    - The annexes, including any additional information of interest for the project;
  2. Second document:
    - A PowerPoint or infographic presentation summarising the objectives, methodology and findings of the research project.
  3. Third document:
    - A financial accounting report for all funds provided by the OSC. This last part must be sent in a separate document ([template](#) provided by the OSC).

Grant holders will undertake to publish/disseminate their research results within the academic world. They will also undertake to ensure that all subsequent publications or productions, using all or part of the results obtained under the auspices of the research grant, will appropriately acknowledge the IOC Olympic Studies Centre and the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme. In addition, they will share with the OSC any such publications or productions.

## 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SELECTION COMMITTEE

For the 2021/2022 Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme, The Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) received 37 applications and awarded 5 grants. The Selection Committee, responsible for recommending to the OSC which projects should be awarded a grant, was composed of the following experts:

- Marion KEIM LEES (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- Sigmund LOLAND (Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway)
- Ana Maria MIRAGAYA (Universidade Estácio de Sã, Brazil)
- Hisashi SANADA (Tsukuba University, Japan)
- Benoît SEGUIN (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Tracy TAYLOR (Victoria University, Australia) and
- Thierry ZINTZ (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium).

This Committee took into consideration the assessments provided by the relevant IOC departments and a selection of [academic reviewers](#).

### FULL LIST OF AWARDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

The full list of research projects funded by The Olympic Studies Centre since the creation of its grant programmes in 1999 is available [here](#). The list is organised by theme and with links to the full text versions online when available.

## 8. SECRETARIAT

For any additional information concerning the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme, please contact the OSC [via email](#) or phone (+41 21 621 6611).

To find out more about the activities and collections of The Olympic Studies Centre, please consult [our website](#).