PhD Students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme

Objectives, rules and guidelines

2024 Award

20 April 2023
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The Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) organises an annual grant programme intended for PhD Students and Early Career Academics engaged in scholarly research on the Olympic Movement, its history and ideals, and the impact of the Olympic Games on the various aspects of contemporary society and culture.

1. **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- **Encourage** PhD Students and Early Career Academics in their research on any aspect of the Olympic phenomenon with a humanities or social sciences perspective. All projects dealing with any aspect related to the Olympic Movement and/or the Olympic Games will be considered.

- **Promote** the consultation of the IOC historical archives, the image archives and the OSC’s collections.
2. ELIGIBILITY

The following researchers are eligible to apply:

- Students enrolled in a PhD degree programme with a humanities and social sciences perspective and that encompasses Olympism, the Olympic Movement or the Olympic Games as, at least, one of the research foci.

  Candidates can submit an application if their theoretical framework, methodology and literature review for their study are already clearly defined.

  The project presented should demonstrate a clear contribution to the candidate’s final doctoral submission.

- Academic staff and postdoctoral fellows who completed their doctorate or equivalent highest degree (including masters, depending on the field) in or after 2021 (named or referred to in this programme as “Early Career Academics” (ECA)).

  ECA applicants must hold a university appointment covering the period of the grant (from submission of the application to delivery of the final report).

Applicants may apply for this grant with the same research subject on only two occasions. However, on the second occasion, they must clearly explain how the application has improved and/or differs from the first proposal.

The following researchers are not eligible to apply:

- Previous OSC grant holders;
- Candidates submitting collective application;
- Candidates submitting application within natural sciences perspectives (e.g. biomechanics, physiology, medicine, neurosciences, …).

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:

- **Official application form** duly completed (see “Instructions and tips” for completing the Research Grant Programmes application forms).

- Official proof of registration as a university doctoral student from the administration of the university (for PhD students) or current and official recognition of university appointment (for ECA) on the institutional letterhead (Appendix 1).

- Letter of recommendation written on institutional letterhead, signed and sent by the applicant’s supervisor (for PhD students) or mentor (for ECA). The Selection Committee is particularly interested in the supervisor’s/mentor’s assessment of the following points: the scholarly significance of the research project; the methodology and original nature of the study; the impact of the project on the Olympic Movement; the candidate’s training, abilities, achievements to date and motivation for the research proposed; and the likelihood that the applicant will complete the project on time.

- If the applicant’s 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 2).

The absolute deadline for submitting applications, including the appendices and the recommendation letter, is **25 September 2023, 23.59 p.m. CEST**. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that the recommendation letter is received by the OSC on time. After the deadline, incomplete or new applications will not be accepted.

A candidature acceptance confirmation email will be sent to the applicants by 2 October 2023.
4. **GRANT AWARDS**

Successful applicants will receive a research grant of a maximum of USD 6,000. 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:

- National travel (economy class) and living expenses when outside the applicant’s place of residence;
- International travel expenses only if linked to the project and clearly justified and/or for those who need to come to consult the IOC Historical Archives and/or OSC’s collections in Lausanne;
- Translation costs for essential research materials;
- Web hosting and development;
- Software not provided by the university;
- Workshops and focus groups;
- Other relevant research expenditure.

Research assistance and transcription costs will normally not be covered unless sound justification is provided.

Expenses related to the dissemination of the applicants’ research results (e.g. open access publication, participation at conferences) are accepted but must not exceed 50 per cent of the total budget identified in the proposal, with an upper limit of USD 1,000.

**EXPENSES NOT COVERED**

- Applicant’s 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 awarded to successful applicants 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 world-renowned for their involvement in Olympic studies and of OSC representatives. Decisions are based upon the quality of the application file, the significance and originality of the proposed research, the feasibility of the project and the candidate’s 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 by the end of December 2023.** For those selected applicants who have requested to consult the IOC Historical Archives and/or the OSC collections, the Centre will schedule their research visits between February and December 2024 in consultation with them.

6. PUBLICATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

All grants are conditional upon the signature of the “Research Project Agreement” (“The Agreement”) by the successful applicant. The Agreement describes the terms and conditions of the collaboration between The Olympic Studies Centre and the grant holder (and his/her university in the case of ECA’s applications).

**All applicants are requested to take note of the Agreement before submitting an application.** In the event of ECA’s application, the candidate must, additionally, inform his/her university about its terms (for subsequent agreement purposes) before submitting the application.

- The Agreement between a PhD Student grant holder and The Olympic Studies Centre is available [here](#).

- The Agreement between the University of the ECA grant holder and The Olympic Studies Centre is available [here](#).
Grant holders undertake to provide the OSC with the following documents (electronic version), in either French or English:

1. A progress report six months after notification of the award, describing the development of the project (2,000 words maximum) and giving a general overview of the expenses incurred thus far.

2. A final research report before 31 December 2024. The final report, which may be used by the OSC for publication, will consist of two documents with the following content:

   > First document:
   - An abstract (250-300 words maximum) and a list of key words;
   - A 10-15-page (4,000-6,000 words) report including:
     a. the research subject and objectives; the academic significance of the project; the methodology applied; the key information sources consulted for the project; (5 pages maximum) and;
     b. the results and conclusions (5-10 pages)
   - The appendices, including any additional information of interest for the project or a non-traditional output, to be agreed on with the OSC.

   > Second document:
   - A financial accounting report for all funds provided by the OSC. This last part must be sent as a separate document.

Grant holders will undertake to publish/disseminate their research results within recognised high quality academic outlets. They will 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 PhD Students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme. All related outputs should be shared with the OSC.
7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SELECTION COMMITTEE

For the 2023 PhD Students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme, The Olympic Studies Centre received 22 candidatures and awarded five grants. The Selection Committee was composed of OSC representatives, as well as of the following experts: Mahfoud AMARA (Qatar University, Qatar), Dikaia CHATZIEFSTATHIOU (Canterbury Christ Church University, Great Britain), Marion KEIM LEES (University of the Western Cape, South Africa), Sigmund LOLAND (Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway), Hisashi SANADA (Tsukuba University, Japan), Tracy TAYLOR (RMIT University, Australia) and Paul WYLLEMAN (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium).

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. It is organised by theme and with links to the full text versions online when available.

SECRETARIAT

For any additional information concerning the PhD Students and ECA 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.