

WADA launches call for proposals for 2021 Social Science Research Grant Program

Today, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) launches a call for proposals for its 2021 [Social Science Research \(SSR\) Grant Program](#); for which we kindly ask Expressions of Interest (EOI) to be received via the Agency's [WADAGrants](#) platform, no later than **22 November 2020 (23:59 GMT)**.

As WADA announced on [10 June 2020](#), the Agency delayed its call for proposals by six months in order to better accommodate the academic community in light of COVID-19. WADA took advantage of this delay to further develop its [2020-2024 SSR Strategy](#), which has since been [approved](#) by the Agency's Executive Committee (ExCo) and published on [2 October](#). The SSR Strategy sets out a framework for supporting WADA's recently announced [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) by focusing on impactful research.

WADA's [Education Committee](#) is tasked with overseeing SSR in the field of anti-doping, including the work undertaken by the Agency's Social Science Review Panel. As part of the implementation of the SSR Strategy, the [Social Science Research Grant Program \(Grant Program\)](#) has been restructured following a review by the Panel and the Agency's Education Department.

While a full overview of the restructured Grant Program, including the application process and research priorities that will guide WADA's investment decisions, is available in the [Overview and Guidance for Applicants](#) document, please note the following key changes:

1. **There is now a 'two-stage' application process:** The first stage requires applicants to submit an EOI regarding their proposed project by 22 November 2020 (23:59 GMT). Then, following review of the EOIs by the Education Department and the Social Science Review Panel, projects meeting the initial criteria will be invited to complete a full application by 31 January 2021.
2. **There are now 'three tiers of investment':** The Grant Program now has three distinct tiers of investment, which are defined by the scale and scope of the research project as outlined in the [Overview and Guidance for Applicants](#) document.

While WADA welcomes EOIs in relation to any of the 12 SSR priorities, which were recently approved by WADA's [Education Committee](#) and are fully described within the [Overview and Guidance for Applicants](#) document, for the 2021 Grant Program, the Agency is particularly interested in the following six priorities:

1. Athlete pathway and athlete experience
2. Clean Sport behaviors
3. Experience of athlete support personnel in anti-doping
4. The role and influence of athlete support personnel
5. Effectiveness of anti-doping
6. Horizon scanning (learnings from other sectors/industries that can be applied to Clean Sport)



Applicants who wish to submit EOIs for projects outside of WADA's SSR priorities may do so; although, in order to be considered, they must demonstrate innovation and/or that they can positively impact Clean Sport.

The Education Committee will review the recommendations from the Social Science Review Panel for WADA-funded research projects in April 2021, prior to seeking formal approval from WADA's ExCo in May 2021; after which, applicants will be notified.

For further information regarding the 2021 Grant Program, please refer to [the Overview and Guidance for Applicants](#) and FAQ section of the [WADAGrants](#) platform; or, contact the Agency's Education Department at ssr@wada-ama.org.

Interested parties may also wish to view the recent WADA [webinar](#) entitled: *The Revised Social Science Research Grant Program* which was presented by members of WADA's Education Department on 8 October 2020.