



# UEFA Research Grant Programme

ACADEMY

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A PRESTIGIOUS GRANT  
PROGRAMME DESIGNED  
TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC  
RESEARCH THAT IMPROVES  
STRATEGIC DECISION-  
MAKING IN EUROPEAN  
FOOTBALL



# FOREWORD

The UEFA Research Grant Programme has been a great success since its launch in 2009. It is important for football organisations to have access to sound academic research to support their decision-making. UEFA's member associations play a key role in the programme's success.

By acknowledging their support for research projects, they ensure that their practical value is maximised and that the results ultimately benefit European football as a whole.

Theodore Theodoridis  
UEFA General Secretary

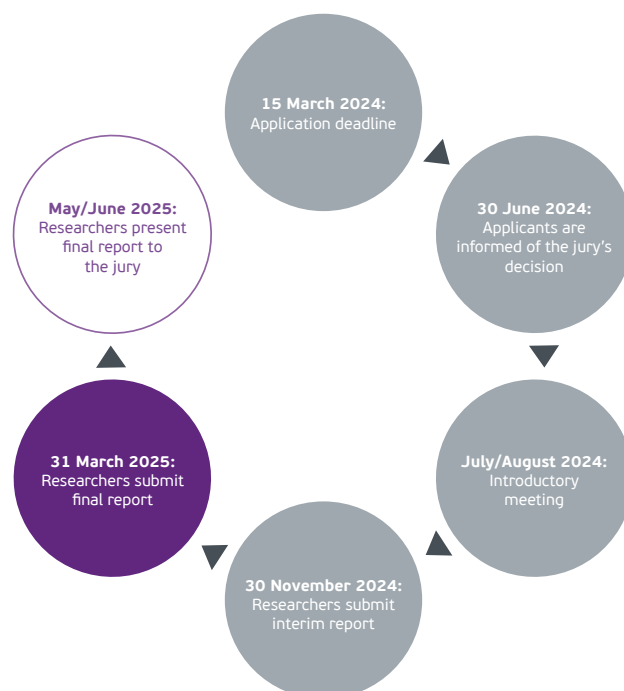


## UEFA Research Grant Programme

**The UEFA Research Grant Programme (UEFA RGP) is a prestigious grant programme designed for academics working in partnership with national associations to deliver research that improves strategic decision-making in European football.**

### Programme overview

The UEFA RGP was established to support visionary research into European football. It is aimed at anyone working on, or already holding, a PhD that involves analysing European football from any one of a variety of academic disciplines. Grant applicants must submit a recommendation letter from a UEFA member association, thus ensuring that their project is undertaken in line with contemporary issues and has the highest practical value possible. In order to foster cooperation between national associations and European universities, up to three researchers based in the territories of three different national associations can submit joint applications. Once completed, the research is shared with the 55 UEFA member associations and is used for growth and development purposes.



#### Who

Researchers holding a research position at a university or equivalent institution. Candidates must have a letter of support from a UEFA member association



#### When

Once a year  
Deadline for applications:  
15 March



#### How long

Nine months of research



#### Where

Research is carried out  
at the participant's institution



#### Grant

Individual grant of up to €15,000  
or joint grant of up to €20,000



#### Number of grants

Usually four to five grants per cycle  
(total allocation: €75,000)



#### Languages

English, French and German



## Main takeaways

- Opportunity for researchers to conduct their research in the best possible conditions
- Access to both funds and data (from national associations and UEFA)
- International recognition
- Opportunity for national associations and UEFA to access the latest research in order to further develop their own activities and projects

## Testimonials



“As the recipient of a grant, I have benefited both academically and professionally from the process. The grant enabled me to engage with UEFA and the French and Dutch football associations as part of my research programme, facilitating important findings into referee abuse, experience and training in different cultures and countries. Developing an under-researched subject area and furthering academic and professional understanding have been central to the grant programme and my research.”

■ **Dr Tom Webb, Senior Lecturer, Sports Management and Development, University of Portsmouth**



“The UEFA Research Grant Programme is not just about supporting academic research; it represents a fundamental strategic pillar for the development of football in Europe. For instance, the project supported by the Italian Football Federation in 2018 definitely helped to give a strong boost to the growth of women's football in Italy and further afield. The research provided analysis and insights on governance, financial and organisational aspects for clubs working to the women's game internationally. The findings had great strategic relevance and were instrumental in the definition of guidelines to further develop the sport. The research also evaluated the potential benefits of integrating women's clubs into professional men's clubs.”

■ **Niccolò Donna, Head of Research and Development, Italian Football Federation**

## Research fields

Through the UEFA Research Grant Programme, UEFA remains committed to supporting the work of doctoral, postdoctoral and established researchers studying European football in a large variety of academic disciplines. Proposals for research projects in the following fields can be submitted for consideration by the UEFA Research Grant Jury:



Economics



History



Law



Management



Political science



Psychology



Sociology

## Collaboration with national associations

UEFA wishes to promote research projects that focus on topics that are highly relevant to its member associations. There are no priority topics, the idea being to give the associations free rein to decide on the projects that interest them.

Consequently, applicants must submit a letter of recommendation written by a president or general secretary/CEO of a UEFA member association in support of the proposed research. Research projects that draw parallels between multiple national associations are also encouraged (in such cases, a letter of recommendation from at least one of the participating associations is required).

Researchers awarded grants by the jury will have nine months to produce a 40-page final report. This practice-based document will be aimed primarily at the association(s) involved in the project and should be tailored accordingly. It should contain recommendations and avenues to explore for representatives of the association and UEFA.





## About the UEFA Academy

Building on the professional excellence UEFA has established throughout its history and the learning initiatives set up over the last decade, the UEFA Academy provides educational programmes for individuals and organisations to constantly elevate the game of football.

Consult our catalogue of courses on [UEFAAcademy.com](https://uefaacademy.com)

## Joint applications

In order to foster cooperation between its member associations and European universities, UEFA accepts joint applications from several collaborating researchers based in different countries.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- have obtained a doctorate and currently hold a research position at a university or equivalent institution; or
- be enrolled as a doctoral student at a university or equivalent institution and currently be preparing a doctoral thesis; and
- obtain a letter of recommendation from a UEFA member association signed by its president or general secretary/CEO.

Applications and final reports must be written in one of UEFA's official languages (English, French or German).

## Application process and regulations

The official application form and the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations are available on [UEFAAcademy.com/courses/rgp](https://uefaacademy.com/courses/rgp). Applications must reach UEFA by 15 March in order to be considered. Applications that meet the requirements of the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations are examined by the UEFA Research Grant Jury. This jury comprises a chair, representatives of European football and academics known internationally for their work in connection with sport and football in Europe. In principle, the jury awards four to five grants to projects involving four or five different national associations and decides on the exact level of funding on a case-by-case basis (up to a maximum of €15,000 per individual grant or €20,000 for joint applications). However, the jury is free to award more or fewer grants. All relevant deadlines are presented in the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations. Applicants may not submit the same project proposal twice without having introduced significant changes and may not submit more than one project proposal during the same UEFA Research Grant Programme cycle.





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# Contact us

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