



Call for Research Proposals

2019 Call for Research Proposals

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, the unified voice of CIMA and the AICPA, has been engaged in a worldwide research project to identify the future direction, role and form of the finance function. Our programme of research included interviews, round tables and a global survey. Our latest white paper from the research, *Reinventing Finance for the Digital World*, tells the story of the research, presents the findings from our global survey (including the top technological areas for current and planned investment by finance functions) and discusses implications for finance professionals, employers, academics and tuition providers, and regulators and policymakers.

Click below for a copy of latest white paper;
Reinventing Finance for the Digital World

CIMA, through its General Charitable Trust, is making funding available to experienced and early career researchers from anywhere in the world to explore two aspects of our findings.

- **The business case for investment in new technologies.**
- **Costing and Cost Management in a digital world.**

We are offering grants of up to £30,000 to experienced researchers and seedcorn grants of up to £7,500 to early career researchers and for feasibility studies.

Applications to be received by 13 September 2019

Researchers are required to produce a 3,000 word report for a business audience summarizing their research project, and its findings and implications for management accounting practice and a business article for one of our member publications.

Call for Research Proposals

We are particularly interested in the following:



The business case for investment in technology:

The business case for, challenges faced and lessons learned from investment in new technologies .

(The term 'new technologies' includes, but is not limited to data visualization, data analytics, robotics or robotic process automation, machine learning, blockchain/ distributed ledgers, digital currency (stablecoin, bitcoin, etc.), cloud-based (ERP) systems, software-as-a-service.)

- An analysis of the benefits and drivers of investment in data analytical tools and other technologies, such as supporting business transformation; freeing up time to focus on higher-value tasks; increased competitiveness; improved customer service and satisfaction.
- Research investigating current practice for investing in these new technologies for management accounting/finance, including the challenges faced and the lessons learned along the journey. From understanding the strategic context and competing business priorities; the risk management implications making the business case e.g. cost/benefit analysis; selecting vendors; assembling project teams; ensuring that the expected benefits are achieved; the risk management implications and finally, conducting post-project reviews.
- Studies documenting and understanding the drivers of 'best practices' of the use of these technologies in management accounting/finance. are also welcomed.



Costing and cost management in a digital world.

What costing and cost management techniques and approaches are needed for businesses to survive and thrive in the face of accelerating technological disruption and in an environment where:

- Costs are decoupled from scale
- An increasing percentage of an organisation's assets are intangible
- Producer power has morphed into consumer power
- Businesses now have globally interconnected value chains
- Major investment expenditure is deferred
- Company product offerings are servitised.

How companies can leverage digital technologies for cost management

- We are particularly interested in further exploring recent research suggesting that digital cost management solutions revolve around two inter-related areas: analytics/cognitive technologies and automation which can enable companies to develop greater insight into cost drivers and their interrelationships.

Applications

Download guidance notes and the application form from our web-site here or by contacting research@aicpa-cima.com

Deadline

Please send applications to research@aicpa-cima.com by the 13 September 2019.