



Annual Research Grant Guidelines

1. Introduction

The basic objects and purposes for which the National Association for Gambling Studies is established are:

- to promote, conduct, commission, develop and co-ordinate opportunities for research into gambling and activities associated with gambling;
- to act as an agent for the collection and dissemination of information and data related to gambling and associated activities;
- to develop, encourage and provide improved research standards and better facilities for research and analysis so as to assist and encourage members to achieve improved research skills; and
- to further knowledge and understanding of gambling and gambling-related issues in the community.

To assist in achieving these objects and purposes, the Association has established an Annual Research Grant to support research in the field of gambling.

2. Description of Grants

The Association will offer up to \$10,000 each year to support a gambling or gambling related research project. The funds derive from the Association's accumulated savings, generated from membership subscriptions and profits generated from annual conferences.

The Association reserves the right not to award an Annual Research Grant in any particular year. At the same time, several applications may be funded in any single year, so long as the total amount of all awards does not exceed \$10,000.

The intent of the Annual Research Grant scheme is to provide new researchers or new research ideas to be investigated. It is not intended the grant will be used to support or "top up" other research funding. Only applications which demonstrate that the project can be completed in its entirety with the NAGS grant and within the time frame allowable will be considered. The grant is not to be used as seeding funds for a larger study.

Only research will be considered for funding. A grant will not be awarded for any other purpose, for example clinical treatment, sabbatical, attend conferences, office infrastructure.

3. Eligibility for Grants

Only fully financial Association members are eligible to apply for a research grant.

4. Outcomes expected of grant recipients

The Association expects the following outcomes:

- An interim report will be produced half way during the conduct of the research.
- A final report will be produced to the Association by 1 November of the year following the award of the grant.
- The grant recipient will present the findings of the research at the next NAGS Annual Conference. One return economy airfare to attend the Conference is to be budgeted within the grant application. Registration at the Conference will be waived for one researcher for each Annual Research Grant awarded. NAGS support of the research is acknowledged on any publications produced as a result of the research. Further, a disclaimer that the views expressed in any publications derived from the research are not necessarily those of the Association.

5. Time lines

Applications for a NAGS Annual Research Grant will be accepted by the National Committee between 1 August and 15 October each year. Applications will be considered by the Committee, or a sub-committee thereof. Grant recipients will be announced at the Association's AGM in late November and granted on or about 1 December of that same year. The study is to take no more than 11 months, with a final report to be provided to the NAGS National Committee by 1 November of the year following the award of the grant. An interim report is to be provided half way during the course of the study.

6. Research Ethical Considerations

The Association does not have an internal Research Ethics Committee, nor does it have automatic access to an external ethics committee. In any proposed research involving human participants, ethics approval must be obtained in advance of submitting an application for funding. Evidence of ethics committee approval must accompany a grant application. Ethics must be obtained from an accredited, formally established ethics committee, for example a hospital, area health service or academic institution.

7. Grant Administration

The total amount of the grant will be awarded in advance around 1 December of the year of the award. Half way through the time over which the research is to be conducted, an interim report is to be provided to the Association, detailing the following:

- Progress to date
- Difficulties encountered
- Expected completion date
- Statement of expenditure of finances and balance of the grant remaining.

In the application, the applicant must indicate which individual or organisation will administer the funds awarded. While it is preferred that the grant is administered by an organisation, the Association recognises that some members may not be affiliated with an organisation and will make the funds available to the individual. Regardless of whether the grant is awarded to an organisation or an individual, an audit of the funds must be completed at the completion of the research, with any costs associated with such an audit being borne by the recipient. If the funds are to be paid to an organisation, the section of the Application Form in which the organisation expresses willingness to administer the funds is to be completed.

8. Intellectual Property

The researcher retains the right to any intellectual property developed as the result of research funded under the Association's Grant scheme. NAGS reserves the right to use any such intellectual property without cost in furtherance of its objects and purposes, including subsequent research grants.

9. Miscellaneous

Under no circumstances will an additional amount of money be provided to continue research. Only under exceptional circumstances will a time extension be granted.

Any successful grant recipients are not precluded from applying for a second grant in the future. However, the second application must not be a continuation of the first research activity. The second research application must be a separate project, but may have been borne out of information or results derived from the first. Any Association member may be awarded no more than two grants in a five (5) year period.

The Association does not hold, nor offer to award recipients, any insurance in respect of any activities conducted by research funded by a research grant.

Funds are not to be spent on research infrastructure support, such as office rental, telephone lines, and utilities. It is expected these will be contributed by the organisation or individual conducting the research.

The Association retains ownership of any items of capital equipment purchased from grant funds. Any such equipment must be delivered to the possession of the NAGS National Committee on the conclusion of the research.

10. Evaluation Criteria

Each application will be assessed by three researchers who are members of the National Association for Gambling Studies (not executive committee members). Each assessor will be required to declare any conflict of interest with the project and/or the application.

Each application will be assessed using the following criteria:

| Selection Criteria: | Unsatisfactory | Low satisfaction | Satisfaction | High satisfaction | Weight |
|---|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. The project will further knowledge and understanding of gambling and gambling related issues in the community. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| 2. The methodology adopted is appropriate for the project aims, given the time frame and budget. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| 3. There is an understanding of the type of data being collected and the appropriate analysis. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| 4. The proposed timetable is considered and achievable. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| 5. Budgeting of the project is detailed and appropriate. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| 6. The investigator has the experience, capacity and knowledge to deliver the project on time. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | X3 = |
| SCORE /33 | | | | | |

NB: The application that achieves the highest cumulative score will be awarded the grant. If no applications receive a combined total greater than 65/99 (at least a “satisfaction” in every criterion) then the grant will not be awarded. If there is a tie between the highest scores, the executive committee will decide the allocation of funding. This may include having the tied applications reviewed by a fourth reviewer or the funding of more than one project. Applicants will receive each scored “Evaluation Criteria” for their project and also be informed of the distribution of total scores. This is done with the intent of encouraging members to achieve improved research skills and to develop improved research standards

11. How to apply for a NAGS Annual Research Grant

Applications for a NAGS Annual Research Grant will only be received in the format specified in the application form. Applications must be accompanied by all attachments required as specified in the application form. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant, identifying deficiencies. The application will be reconsidered if received complete before the closing date. No applications will be considered if received at the NAGS Secretariat after the closing date.

The address for submission of NAGS Annual Research Grants is:

NAGS Secretariat
 Attention: Annual Research Grant Administrator
 PO Box 1371
 Mitcham North, VIC. 3132
AUSTRALIA

The preferred format for enquiries is email, to nags@nags.org.au

Telephone enquiries may be directed to 03 8393 9386.