Funded by the European Union

Research & Policy Grant for Early Career Researchers
Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility and applicant requirements

My academic background is adjacent to, rather than directly in, education science. Am I still eligible to apply?
Yes, IEA welcomes applicants of adjacent disciplines; however, such applicants will be required to name a supervisor who is an expert on IEA data as part of their application. IEA also offers grant recipients the option of attending training in Hamburg (with enrolment fees waived) to support the execution of research projects.

I fall out of the 5-year eligibility requirement due to maternity/paternity leave or a long-term sickness. Am I still eligible?
In some cases where parental leave or long-term sickness puts you outside of the grant's eligibility (as described in the call document) you can still be considered if you provide a proof to IEA, such as a formal notice from your employer (in English). Note that disruptions caused by measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic do not fall under this exemption.

I am a staff member of IEA, or a staff member at an international study center (ISC) tasked with executing IEA studies. Am I still eligible?
Yes, but to facilitate a fair application process IEA will use external reviewers to conduct reviews for such applicants.

Are any nationalities unable to apply for the grant?
There are no regional restrictions in the call. However, to be eligible and potentially successful, submissions and the following work will need to be written in English and based on data from IEA studies. Furthermore, the analysis must focus on the European Education Area.

I have previously won a grant from IEA. Does this affect my eligibility?
Applicants who won previous grants from IEA are still able to apply, on the condition they successfully accomplished the work as specified under their previous grant conditions. The only criteria considered are those listed in the call document.

Application process and submission

What do I do if I am experiencing technical difficulties with the GoodGrants Platform?
For technical matters you can contact IEA for support via the rpgrant@iea.nl email account. The team will aim to respond within two working days.

Am I allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in preparing my proposal?
Generative AI tools may be used for limited support tasks during proposal development. They may not be used to generate substantial proposal content or replace/rework the applicant's own intellectual contribution, including the theoretical background, research design, potential impact, timeline, or references. Applicants remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their proposal. Any use of AI tools must be disclosed in the Declarations section of the application. Applicants should comply with the Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research.

Is a supervisor required for all applicants?
As stated in the call, applicants with limited experience in international large scale assessment data are required to have a supervisor with ILSA knowledge. Applicants are encouraged to review the 'Eligibility Criteria' section of the call document to assess whether they should enlist a supervisor.

Am I allowed to submit more than one application for the expression of interest?
No – individuals may only submit one application as the lead researcher. You may participate as an additional researcher in another application, but the grant award will only be provided to the lead researcher or their academic institution.

I have submitted an application, but want to make changes to it; is this possible?
Once submitted, applications cannot be amended and you will need to inform us you need to reopen your application. In such a scenario, please write to rpgrant@iea.nl and we will assist you further.

Can IEA provide guidance on how proposal titles should be formulated or structured?
Titles should be informative and clearly aligned with the focus of the research project.

Can I ask IEA questions about the content of my proposal or the scoring system?
To ensure a fair application and review process, IEA cannot help with any matters relating to the content of your proposal.

Research project and academic requirements

Are qualitative research projects also considered?
No - since the call is based on IEA data, we expect applicants to focus on quantitative methods.

Can a group of two or more researchers apply for the grant?
No, the call requires one leading principal researcher, who fulfils the eligibility requirements and submits the application. However, the proposal can be based on collaboration with additional researchers as well as their supervisor. The grant award is based on a signed contract between IEA and the Awardee or their university.

Will I be required to take research leave in order to execute my research project?
Leave will only be required for the purposes of attending meetings and training sessions. IEA does not require research leave for the work to be carried out.

What kinds of professionals can be named as a supervisor?
The role of the supervisor is to support you in using IEA data within the purpose of the call. In lieu of a university-affiliated academic, senior experts engaged in analyzing IEA data who are not scholars (i.e. have published on relevant topics or are working at a Ministry of Education at the national level) could be considered. There are no restrictions on your supervisor's nationality or location.

Can IEA support me in securing a supervisor?
IEA cannot support you in finding a supervisor to support your research project.

Will I be expected to conduct any primary data collection as part of my research project?
No - the call specifically refers to secondary analysis of existing IEA data. Please consult the Data Repository on IEA's website to see the available data. Only applications using data from IEA studies (TIMSS, PIRLS, ICILS, ICCS, LaNA) are eligible.

Funding, administration, and grant conditions

How is the funding administered, and are there rules on its use?
The grant is paid as a lump sum, in three instalments. Payment is made either to the Awardee directly or their university, depending upon the Awardee's preference. IEA does not inquire about the subsequent use or allocation of finances by the Awardee. If the application was submitted with named additional researchers, it is the responsibility of the Awardee to plan for and provide any financial compensation to the additional researchers.

If I request that the grant funds be transferred to my university, is it possible for the research agreement itself to be concluded directly with my host institution/university?
Yes, this is possible for cases where the funds are being transferred directly to the relevant institution rather than the Awardee themselves. Successful proposals will lead to a signed contract between IEA and either the Awardee or their university, with funds transferred to the party who signs the contract.

Logistics, travel, and participant support

Do I need to attach proof of medical insurance to my application?
The proof of insurance does not need to be attached to the application. This matter is handled only with successful applicants and only in cases where travel for meetings or training is anticipated.

Can IEA support me in getting travel visas or medical insurance?
Awardees assume all responsibility (including costs) for their arrangements regarding travel and medical matters. If you expect to encounter difficulties getting visas or medical insurance, please contact rpgrant@iea.nl prior to applying, so we can advise you on your specific case.

I live far away from Europe, is it possible to attend required meetings and training remotely?
Please indicate in your application that you would like all meetings to be held online. However, IEA cannot guarantee all meetings will be held online, and training may scheduled to be on-site at IEA Hamburg. Travel and related costs are expected to be borne by the Awardee using the funds provided through the grant.

Is your question not covered in this document? Contact rpgrant@iea.nl.
We aim to respond to all queries within two working days. Note that IEA cannot respond to content-related queries.