

The Irish Accountancy Educational Trust

Research Agenda

2011- 2012

About the Irish Accountancy Educational Trust:

The principal objectives of the Irish Accountancy Educational Trust (IAET) are to further and develop the science of accountancy in all of its branches and to promote educational facilities for the teaching of the science and practice of accountancy, auditing, finance and other related subjects.

The policy of the Trustees is to act as a catalyst for activities in the sphere of accountancy education and research and to provide financial assistance where such activities would not otherwise be feasible. If the resources available prove inadequate for these needs the Trust may act as a vehicle for additional public fundraising.

The Trust has identified broad research themes to stimulate applications for funding and they may come from the following areas:

- Audit and Assurance
- Accounting History (IAET encourages historical research where it has relevance to the current day science and practice of accountancy, auditing, taxation, finance and governance.)
- Business Ethics
- Business Reporting
- Corporate Governance
- Management Accounting and Financial Management
- Methodologies of Education and Training
- Not-for-Profit Sector.

In the past the Trust has funded projects such as:

- XBRL Development;
- Implementation of Accruals Accounting in the Irish Public Sector;
- A New Approach to the Delivery of Accounting Cases to large groups in an educational setting; and
- Irish Accounting and Finance Review – the Trust has, since the inception of Irish Accounting and Finance Review (IAFA) supported the publication of the IAFA Review

Some of the areas that would be of interest to the Trust in 2011/12 include, but are not limited to, for example:

1. **Financial Reporting for Smaller Entities:** Research into the 'intelligibility' of financial accounts for small companies/entities. What information do stakeholders really need from financial reports? What are the real financial needs of smaller entities.
2. **Audit Standards:** The auditing and Audit Standards needs of Smaller Entities. Is there a need to use the same standards as are used for large entities?
3. **Credit Unions and their Governance:**
 - a. Research into a proposed Corporate Governance Framework/s for Credit Unions.
 - b. The Benefits and Disadvantages of Mutuality – Building societies and credit unions compared with banks and other proprietary financial institutions.
4. **The Governance of Charities:** Research into a proposed Corporate Governance Framework/s. Possibility a comparative study of guidance in the UK and elsewhere.
5. **Directors' Duties:** What are the practical skills and experience now needed by Directors.

This list is by no means exhaustive.

Funding Policy:

The Trust welcomes applications from the academic research community both within and outside the island of Ireland. It is particularly interested in applications based on professional, business and/or international collaboration. Grants cover the direct expenditure attributable to the project.

The Trust is not limited to supporting academic research only but it is also available to those in practice or in any other form of activity that promotes the science of accounting and/or accountancy education.

(Note: College fees are not paid for nor are projects leading to the award of a Master's Degree.)

It must be clearly acknowledged in each project that the Trust has supported it. The suggested form of wording to be used in such acknowledgement is:

'This article/report/book is based on research carried out in collaboration with xxxx from xxxx and with financial support from the Irish Accountancy Educational Trust.'

1. A copy of the research output must be made available to the Trust and the Trust reserves the right to publish such output on its website or in its journal or any other Chartered Accountants Ireland publication.
2. Projects which are unduly delayed will be reassessed by the Trustees and the Trustees may decide to decline outstanding funding to such projects.
3. The decision of the Trustees to fund or not to fund a research application is final.

Requests for Funding:

Each request for funding must include the following:-

1. Research proposal summary to include the following:
 - a. A summary of the project

- b. Problem/Hypothesis or Question
 - c. Research methodology
 - d. Potential contribution to the science of accounting
 - e. Prior Research that has been carried out by the applicant or others in relation to the topic.
 - f. Intended form of publication output
2. Completion of the attached application form.
 3. Curriculum Vitae/s of the Applicants.

