

Call for ESPN Research Fellowship Applications

UNLV International Gaming Institute (“IGI”) is issuing a call for proposals (CFP) to award up to four (4), six (6) month, non-resident fellowships of USD \$5,000 each. These fellowships will support impactful research initiatives that advance theoretical and practical understanding of responsible gambling practices in sports media.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2024

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Submissions are encouraged on a broad range of projects related to responsible gambling practices in sports media. We invite innovative proposals that will be of high value to sports and general media outlets, gambling operators, policy makers, and other relevant stakeholders in sports & betting media. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Best practices in responsible gambling messaging integration into broadcast content
- Responsible marketing practices in sports media
- Responsible gambling practices for media consumption among youth audiences
- Sports media training programs in responsible gambling
- Any other concepts or ideas that consider how gambling is presented in sports media

We encourage applicants to think creatively. Academic research proposals are encouraged, as are alternative concept and deliverable formats, such as business plans or corporate policy draft concepts. We are open to any project format that contributes to our understanding of the aforementioned topics.

TIMELINE

The proposal deadline is February 1, 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by April 1, 2024. Projects are expected to be initiated by May 1, 2024, and completed by October 31, 2024.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants may be domestic or international, and must be affiliated with a non-profit research or academic institution. Applicants may be at any level of researcher expertise and career trajectory, including undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and faculty & staff positions.

The fellowship is not a UNLV resident position. Therefore, successful applicants are not required to base themselves in Las Vegas for any portion or the entirety of the research project.

DELIVERABLES

You will be expected to produce a white paper and present your research findings during an IGI-hosted webinar during Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 (specific date TBD). Additional deliverables (e.g., academic journal publications, conference presentations, and/or policy advocacy for best practices) are also encouraged, as well as creative ways to disseminate findings to non-academic audiences.

FUNDING

The funding for this initiative is kindly donated by ESPN. IGI enforces a firewall to protect the integrity of research supported by industry funds (<https://www.unlv.edu/igi/research-policy>); ESPN is not involved in the review or research process. The fellowship will be delivered as a one-time payment of USD \$5,000 to the individual awardee.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

A review committee will be comprised of three reviewers from IGI's academic and research staff. IGI's decision, after review by members of the review board, will be final. Applicants should prepare a brief proposal (up to 1,000 words), double-spaced, 12-point font, in either .docx or .pdf file format. Applications should include a title page with name, affiliation, and contact information. This title page does not apply toward the word count.

Submissions will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

1. **Significance and Impact:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the topic(s) of interest? What topic(s)/research question(s) will your study address? Submissions should emphasize how the project can effect positive change in responsible gambling in sports media and how the findings can be of use to stakeholders around the world. Innovative solutions that create new and useful knowledge are particularly encouraged.
2. **Research Plan and Rigor:** Describe your proposed study design and strategic execution plan. Submissions should emphasize how the project will be completed, including a well-reasoned strategy on any research methodology, analyses, timelines (including start and complete dates), research plan, and deliverables. For academic proposals, include established

details and rationale including e.g., the study design, methods, sample, and statistical analyses, etc. For non-academic submissions, adapt this section to fit your specific format while ensuring a rigorous approach. For example, while a business plan may not include a “methods” section, it should include components that are typical for a well-structured plan including a business description, market analysis, and forecasts/projections. Innovative deliverables that will expand the reach of knowledge dissemination beyond the CFP’s stated deliverables are encouraged.

3. **Dissemination:** How will your research findings be communicated?
4. **Personnel:** Applicant should describe their appropriate and relevant experience. Early career researchers with limited experience can also provide information about how their project fits their academic and career goals.
5. **Budget:** A simple budget and budget justification for the full amount is required. It is anticipated that in most cases, personnel costs for the fellow will constitute the entirety of these budgets, unless there exists a compelling reason to spend funds in a different fashion.
6. **Human Subjects Research:** Should any primary research be conducted with human subjects (including both exempt and full review formats), submissions should outline how human subject reviews will be undertaken with an appropriate institutional review board.

INSTRUCTIONS

Send proposal via email to Kasra Ghaharian, Senior Research Fellow (kasra.ghaharian@unlv.edu) by 5 p.m. PST, February 1, 2024, using the subject line “ESPN Fellowship Application – Last Name” and attach the .docx or .pdf file and save as LASTNAME_ESPN_APPLICATION.

Applications received after the above deadline will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Kasra Ghaharian via email.