

Pre-Call for IPPG Project Research Applications for Research Grants



Programme Objectives

The IPPG Programme is the shorthand name for the Research Programme Consortium on Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth, launched in September 2005 and based at the University of Manchester.

The inspiration for the programme comes from two sources. The first is the recognition that 'institutions' – meaning relatively stable social arrangements and the formal rules, laws and conventions and informal norms that are associated with them – exercise a profound influence upon patterns and rates of economic development and change. The second is the concern that while it is by now clear that economic growth is a necessary condition for the sustainable reduction of poverty, it is not a sufficient condition for such reduction to take place. Consequently, if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved, it is necessary to think of ways whereby growth can be made distinctly pro-poor. 'Pro-Poor Growth' (PPG) means simply economic growth that is accompanied by improvements in the real incomes of poor people – economic growth that is actually driven, at least in part, by improvements in the incomes of poor people.

The founding proposition of the IPPG Programme is that the interactions of economic, political, social and cultural institutions constitute a matrix that may either enhance or constrain pro-poor growth. The task of the Programme is then to identify historically and comparatively those institutional sets and contexts that enhance pro-poor growth, and – recognizing that the evolutionary history of institutions in any society reflects the changing bargaining power of different social groups – to show how such patterns of institutional interaction change or may be helped to change. A further aim is to identify the conditions under which coalitions of stakeholders may be encouraged to adapt, adopt, negotiate and change institutional matrices that will be conducive to pro-poor growth.

Call for Proposals

The IPPG will shortly be inviting applications for the third phase of funding. There are seven projects based through-out Sub-Saharan Africa and India and researchers are required to join the project teams. The projects are:

State-Business Relations – African Case Studies

State-Business Relations – India – Macro

State-Business Relations – Indian State Case Studies

The Politics of Selecting Industrial Projects (based in Africa)

The Politics and Economics of Competition Policy (based in southern Africa)

Forma and Informal Institutions (based in South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa)

Contracting Environment in African Agriculture

Candidates will need to have a strong background in economics and/or political science, econometrics, including time series methods, and preferably experience of working with large datasets and carrying out fieldwork in developing countries. The successful candidates will also have the opportunity to co-author academic articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals; candidates should have a PhD in economics, political science or a related discipline (or be close to completion). It is expected that all candidates will be based in Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. Candidates will be asked to submit a brief C.V., a two-page proposal stating approach and interest in the project of their choice, and two examples of written work, preferably published (no piece should exceed 10,000 words).

It is expected that the call for application for research grants will be circulated no later than 21 March 2008. Please contact the IPPG at (ippg@manchester.ac.uk) or check the IPPG website (www.ippg.org.uk) for further information.

Research Programme Consortium for Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth
School of Environment & Development
University of Manchester, Arthur Lewis Building, 2.023
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
Great Britain