

CIMA research initiative

Sustainability - calls for strategic change

CIMA invites research proposals on topics which will help organisations to consider sustainability in a strategic context and will assist management accountants in the pivotal role they can play in providing business intelligence to support strategy and influence decision making.

CIMA is seeking to enhance and expand its body of knowledge on sustainability and intends to fund innovative research on this global issue.

Suggested topics might include:

- How do organisations integrate sustainability into strategy and how has the role of the finance team evolved to contribute to this? What effect has the current economic downturn had on this process?
- What tools, techniques and models are being developed and used to take a strategic approach to sustainability and how effective have established methods been e.g. life cycle costing, carbon accounting, balanced scorecard?
- How have accounting systems and practices evolved to assist in monitoring, reporting and decision making? How effective have they been in providing key information?
- How does performance management/business intelligence link to sustainability? How can this information be used to identify and evaluate business opportunities and competitive edge?
- How has the process of decision making changed to recognise the costs, risks and opportunities presented by sustainability issues (use of business case, investment appraisal, etc.)? What effect has this had on the business model?

The scope of this initiative does not extend to external sustainability reporting and assurance.

For this particular initiative, CIMA is prepared to contribute funding to research that has already started. Applicants should be aware that CIMA is keen to publish research that is responsive to the current challenging environmental and economic conditions and that proposals with longer timeframes (i.e. over 18 months) are therefore less likely to be successful.

The research findings should be of value to both businesses and academic communities globally, and case studies may be drawn from both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors.

Grants are typically between £5,000 and £40,000 depending on the scope of the project and its outputs.

For further information about CIMA's position on sustainability please visit www.cimaglobal.com/sustainability

Applying

Applicants are strongly advised to read CIMA's research strategy prior to applying.

Application forms can be downloaded at www.cimaglobal.com/research

The closing date for applications is 25 May 2009 and shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their proposals to a CIMA review panel on 17 June 2009.

The review panel will be chaired by Rebecca Ryan FCMA, Finance Manager, Close Brothers.

For further information on this funding initiative or for other research related enquiries, please contact CIMA's research team:

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