



## 5<sup>th</sup> IPSASB Research Forum—Co-Hosted by the CIGAR

### Call for Papers

The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) has strengthened its connection with the academic community in recent years by holding Research Forum in 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2024. The IPSASB has supported its engagement with Calls for Papers, which encourage academic researchers to contribute to standard setting through scholarly papers. The academic outreach activities have allowed participants, both from academia and standard-setting bodies, to discuss specific current and committed projects on the IPSASB's work program, as well as specific public sector topics identified for research activities.

For both the call for papers and the 5<sup>th</sup> Research Forum, the IPSASB continues its partnership with the Comparative International Governmental Accounting Research Network (CIGAR) (<https://www.cigar-network.net/>). These activities are coordinated through the [Academic Advisory Group](#), which includes global independent scholars, as well as the IPSASB members with academic backgrounds.

In preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Research Forum, which will be co-hosted by CIGAR at its June 2025 Biennial Conference, the following call for papers seeks scholarly contributions from the academic community.

**The IPSASB is offering grants of USD 2,000 for selected scholarly papers submitted on each of the topics below (up to six grants available in total). The IPSASB may select additional topics under each Research Area depending on the focus of the proposed research and its relevance to the IPSASB's current and future work program and initiatives ([Appendix A](#) provides further information on each topic):**

Research Area 1: Research on topics for ongoing IPSASB projects, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Presentation of Financial Statements – Research the benefits and drawbacks of introducing an 'other comprehensive income', or equivalent, approach into public sector financial statements.
- Interaction with Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014 (GFSM 2014) – Research areas where IPSAS and GFSM 2014 principles can improve consistency and efficiency through better alignment.
- Intangible Assets – Research areas where IPSAS 31, *Intangible Assets*, is challenging its public sector application.

Research Area 2: Sustainability Reporting Focused Research, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Biodiversity-related Disclosures in the Public Sector – Research on Public Sector Disclosure Issues and how these are practically being addressed.

Research Area 3: Research on currently effective IPSAS for consideration in the IPSASB's future work program, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- IPSAS 18, *Segment Reporting*.
- IPSAS 20, *Related Party Disclosures*.
- IPSAS 35, *Consolidated Financial Statements*.

[Appendix A](#) provides further information on each topic.

### Submission process

Academics interested in obtaining an IPSASB grant should develop and **submit abstracts** by **October 4, 2024** via the [submissions page](#). Abstracts should be:

- One-page summaries of the planned approach to the topic selected by the scholar (or group of scholars). *Abstract of a maximum 2 pages or 1000 words, showing purpose, design/methodology/approach, preliminary findings (if available), novelty and contribution.*
- Developed in English (**Only abstracts in English will be considered**); and
- Blinded (please exclude the author's name(s) on the abstract submitted).

The abstracts will be reviewed by the Academic Advisory Group. Decisions on the award of grants will be taken by October 30, 2024. Scholars who wish to submit a paper without receiving a grant are free to do so.

### Key dates

- October 4, 2024 – Submission deadline for abstracts;
- November 15, 2024 – Decisions on the award of grants;
- March 14, 2025 – Submission of the full first draft of papers and **payment of the grants, please note grants will be paid after the submission of the full draft of papers**. Academic Advisory Group will provide feedback on full first draft of papers;
- May 15, 2025 – Submission of final papers;
- June 25–27, 2025 – The grant recipients, as well as other scholars, will present the first drafts of their full papers at the 2025 Research Forum to receive feedback from fellow academics. Participants in the IPSASB Research Forum are expected to follow the registration procedure for the CIGAR Workshop; and
- September 9–12, 2025 – The grant recipients, as well as other scholars, will present the results of their research **in English** at the IPSAS Board Meeting (virtually or in person).

Final papers are invited to be published in *Public Money & Management*, after undergoing a double-blind peer review process, involving one reviewer from CIGAR and one from the IPSASB.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Publication is at the discretion of *Public Money & Management* and not guaranteed.

## Appendix A – Research Topics

Research Area 1: Research on topics for ongoing IPSASB projects, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

***Presentation of Financial Statements – Research the benefits and drawbacks of introducing an ‘other comprehensive income’, or equivalent, approach into public sector financial statements.***

The IPSASB issued IPSAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, in the year 2000. The last substantial update occurred in 2005, prior to the introduction of ‘other comprehensive income’ into IFRS by the IASB and the recent 2024 publication of IFRS 18, *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*. Research on this topic should compare the benefits and drawbacks of introducing an ‘other comprehensive income’, or equivalent, approach into public sector financial statements for revenue and expense items that IPSAS currently report directly in net assets/equity (for example, revaluation of property, plant, and equipment). Further research could consider the applicability of key changes from IFRS 18 into the public sector and whether those may provide useful information for the purposes of public sector uses.

This research could involve comparing reporting models applied across various national jurisdictions and identifying what aspects of presentation deliver the most benefit to users when assessing an entity’s financial performance for accountability decision-making purposes.

***Interaction with Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014 (GFSM 2014) – Research areas where IPSAS and GFSM 2014 principles can improve consistency and efficiency through better alignment.***

Research on this topic should consider principles across IPSAS and GFSM 2014 principles that can be better aligned to limit unnecessary differences and enhance consistency. This research should consider the alignment of principles underlying IPSAS and GFSM 2014 to ensure consistent information and data across frameworks.

This research could include quantitative or analytical research, comparing countries report information based on IPSAS and GFSM 2014 to see if this provides economic and/or data quality benefits, and how the improvements in information can lead to identifiable benefits (cost savings).

***Intangible Assets – Research areas where IPSAS 31, Intangible Assets, is challenging it its public sector application.***

This limited-scope research area should address possible modifications to IPSAS 31 to reflect principles developed through the Measurement, Natural Resources, and Heritage projects. Research on this topic should consider practical implementation of IPSAS 31 in the public sector, including the need for additional guidance to help better apply the core principles in the standard in the public sector.

Research Area 2: Sustainability Reporting Focused Research, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

***Biodiversity-related Disclosures in the Public Sector – Research on Public Sector Disclosure Issues and how these are practically being addressed.***

Research on this topic should explore scoping alternatives for a public sector biodiversity disclosure standard and what the IPSASB should consider in defining the scope to best serve users of the information in the public sector. Research may explore what national jurisdictions are considering when determining what aspects of biodiversity are in scope of its disclosure, the type of information related to biodiversity that stakeholders find useful, and how reporting on biodiversity is serving the public interest. It could also consider how existing international guidance and frameworks, such as TNFD or GRI guidance, may be relevant and adaptable for the public sector, and the potential interaction with evolving statistical reporting frameworks.

Research Area 3: Research on currently effective IPSAS for consideration in the IPSASB's future work program, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

**IPSAS 18, *Segment Reporting*.**

The IPSASB issued IPSAS 18, *Segment Reporting*, in the year 2002. IPSAS 18 was not updated when IFRS 8, *Operating Segments*, replaced IAS 14, *Segment Reporting*, in 2006. This limited scope research area should address possible changes to IPSAS 18 to enhance alignment with IFRS 8 that will result in better information for users of the financial information. Research should explore challenges public sector entities face in applying the existing guidance in IPSAS 18 in practice, and what changes would result in a more useful standard.

**IPSAS 20, *Related Party Disclosures*.**

The IPSASB issued IPSAS 20, *Related Party Disclosures*, in the year 2002. IPSAS 18 was not updated when IAS 24, *Related Party Disclosures*, was revised in 2003 and 2009. This limited scope research area should address possible changes to IPSAS 20 to enhance alignment with IAS 24 that will result in better information for users of the financial information. Research should explore challenges public sector entities face in applying the existing guidance in IPSAS 20 in practice, and what changes would result in a more useful standard.

**IPSAS 35, *Consolidated Financial Statements*.**

This limited scope research area should address possible changes to clarify the requirement in IPSAS 35 to determine whether to consolidate an entity based on 'control'. Research should explore different methods in which control exists in the public sector and potential challenges public sector entities face in applying the control criterion, and whether alternatives exist that better support consolidation in the public sector, or if there are ways to add additional guidance to support the application of the control principle in a public sector context.