AAVMC CIVME Educational Research Grants Program: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

The following FAQs provide guidance for applicants to the Educational Research Grants Program run by AAVMC's Council on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME) and are based on the findings from the international survey conducted by CIVME in 2026.

What is educational research?

Educational research (also called pedagogic research) is the study of teaching, learning, assessment, curriculum design and the student experience. Its aim is to generate evidence to inform and improve educational practice, policy and outcomes.

What type of projects are suitable for the CIVME educational research grants program?

The projects must align with the council's grant program goals:

- Communication and collaboration that advances veterinary medical education around the world
- Collaboration among educational researchers
- Dissemination of innovations and other educational advances, to magnify the impact of projects by outreach to educators and their respective organizations

The project team must consist of collaborators from 3 or more CIVME regions (see list here) with at least one of those regions being Africa/MENA, Asia or Latin America/Caribbean.

A list of previous projects and their outputs are available here. These provide useful guidance about previous topics, study design, international collaboration and outputs e.g. journal publications, open access resources, etc. Other useful resources are research studies published in educational journals including AAVMC's Journal of Veterinary Medical Education.

Am I eligible to apply for a CIVME educational research grant?

Your institution does not need to be a member of AAVMC. However, the work of the grant must be conducted at a veterinary educational establishment.

If you are involved in a current CIVME grant project, you cannot be part of another application to the CIVME Educational Research Grants Program until the final report for the current project has been submitted and formally approved by CIVME.

Previous CIVME members cannot be part of a project team until 3 years after rotating off the council. However, past CIVME members can act as mentors to applicants.

Where can I get guidance on educational research projects and study design?

As well as reading the information about previous projects (see above), we suggest you consult the open access Veterinary Educational Researcher's Handbook, produced by a recent CIVME funded project. The handbook consists of a series of relatively short chapters and lists key references. The chapters follow the researcher's journey from the initial idea, to building a team and reviewing the existing literature, to explanations of the common study types and the associated study design, methodological approaches, etc. The handbook also offers guidance to address challenges such as funding (writing grant applications), obtaining research ethics approval, recruiting and managing study participants, collecting and analyzing data, and the important final step of disseminating the findings.

For CIVME projects it is important to disseminate the outcomes and outputs of the project. Ideally through multiple channels e.g. journal manuscript, conference presentation, open access resources, etc. AAVMC and CIVME must be formally acknowledged as the funder in all outputs.

What about ethical approval and data security for the project?

Educational research projects require ethical approval. You should consult your institutional ethics review board / committee for advice. You should also familiarize yourself with the data security and data protection regulations relevant to the type of educational research study you plan to conduct.

How do I find collaborators?

There are various ways you could find collaborators from other CIVME regions. These include using your existing international networks to ask colleagues to identify potential collaborators for an educational research project. You could post in the AAVMC Learn platform to ask for collaborators who are interested in your project proposal topic. You can also reach out to CIVME@aavmc.org for suggestions or contacts in regions.

How do I find the application form?

The application is submitted through the AAVMC Apply platform.

What can we include in the budget?

Guidance on what to include in the budget (and what cannot be included) is available in the budget section of the application form. If in doubt about whether an item can be included, please contact the AAVMC office at info@aavmc.org. You should also contact your institutional research budget office/team for assistance in preparing the budget.

How are the applications evaluated?

The applications are reviewed by several CIVME members using rubrics. The rubrics align with the sections of the application form. Certain sections are weighted to reflect the amount of information provided ('Methods, approaches and statistical analysis (if relevant)' x2), and the alignment with CIVME's goals ('Project fit' x1.5). CIVME is not able to provide specific feedback on applications.

I think a mentor would be helpful, but how do I find one?

There isn't a simple answer to this question. It depends what you are looking for in a mentor e.g. specific expertise, general advice on setting up and running educational research projects, support during a project, etc. It is recommended that you think carefully about what you want and then start looking for someone with the associated skill set from within or beyond your institution. Don't be afraid to reach out with a direct approach to someone once you have identified them as a potential mentor. It will be helpful to establish clear criteria e.g. expectations, requirements, level of input and for how long, level of recognition, etc.

What if I have questions when using the online application form?

Please contact the AAVMC office by emailing info@aavmc.org for advice.