

INFORMATION FOR THE GUIDANCE-BASED RESEARCH

Eligibility Criteria:

To benefit from guided research, the researcher must be a citizen as well as a resident of Georgia.

Timeline:

The research proposal (drafted according to the guidelines below) must be submitted by the end of March 2007. By the end of April 2007 the reviewers from NBG and ISET will select about 3-4 winning proposals, the authors of which will be eligible for a 100 USD monthly stipend provided by ISET. The maximum total amount of the research stipend will be 1000 USD.

Researchers will be given three months – till the end of July 2007 – to present their work in progress for the midterm review. Continuation of the stipend will be subject to the results of the review. If progress is deemed satisfactory, two outcomes are possible: (1) the researchers will be given another three months to complete their work and present the final output; (2) the work presented will not require additional effort. In the first case the monthly stipend of 100 USD will be continued; in the second case the researchers will immediately receive the remainder of their 1000 USD grant (i.e., 700 USD).

Projects which the reviewers' conclude require additional effort must be finalized by the end of October. During this period the monthly 100 USD stipend will be continued, and the remainder of 400 USD will be issued in a lump sum, if deemed acceptable.

During the first half of November 2007 the reviewers may select papers to be published as NBG Working Papers in accordance with the NBG research program.

Apart from the monthly stipend, researchers will have the access to the following facilities, provided jointly by the NBG and ISET:

1. Training and mentorship. This facility will include the training sessions in econometrics, statistics, and academic writing, provided by the ISET personnel. The researchers will also have the opportunity to appoint individual meetings with ISET lecturers and NBG research staff. Such individual meetings will normally be limited to two per month.
2. The NBG will provide available data, required for the implementation of the research project.
3. The NBG and ISET will also provide access to the econometric software, required to implement the research project.¹

¹ The researchers must indicate in their application whether they have any specific need with regard to data, software and/or training.

Research Proposal Guidelines

The proposal should be about 3-4 pages or 1,000 words in length. There is no standard format as such. However, as general guidance an applicant should aim at providing as much of the following information as possible:

- 1. Title**
- 2. Introduction:** In this section, the author should identify the area of research as specifically as possible, providing a few background paragraphs to the problem that is to be researched in general terms.
- 3. Literature review:** This section should convey the author's awareness of the existing state of research in the field.
- 4. Research methodology:** An indication of the research techniques and methodology to be used, along with a plan and timetable of work.
- 5. Project rationale and expertise:** A short explanation of why the area of research is of interest, how it conforms to the NBG requirements, and an account of the author's relevant expertise for research in the field.