

Call for Research Proposals on “*Intangible Assets and Factor Investing*”

The EDHEC Scientific Beta research chair is inviting research applications in the area of “*Intangible Assets and Factor Investing*.” These research grants will support academic research on factor investing that is practically relevant and provides a substantial contribution to the academic literature. Funding is available for up to two projects, and each grant will be for 10,000 euros with an additional bonus of 10,000 euros awarded upon publication in a top-tier academic journal (a list of relevant journals, which includes FT-listed accounting and finance journals, will be provided to the selected researchers). Payment will be made directly to the researcher, unless otherwise requested, and this research support does not in any way preclude subsequent publication of the paper in a journal of the researcher's choice (only an acknowledgement of the research funding is required).

Research projects should address how considering intangible capital affects widely-documented asset pricing factors, such as value, investment and profitability. Such factors draw on accounting information, which often ignores intangible capital or treats intangibles inconsistently. While a growing literature considers the effects of intangibles, it remains unclear how intangible capital should be incorporated in empirical asset pricing. The following list contains examples of relevant questions:

- How can the rational explanation for factor premia be extended to intangible capital? For example, it has been argued that the value premium is related to costly reversibility of assets in place. How can we capture the cost of reversibility for intangible capital?
- What is the empirical performance of asset pricing models when applied to intangible capital? How can we deal with measurement problems for intangible capital in this context?
- How can we avoid inconsistencies in the treatment of intangibles when measuring firm characteristics? Does avoiding inconsistencies improve the performance of asset pricing models or the explanation of factor premia?

Proposals should contain a detailed outline of the research to be conducted and an explanation of its contribution. Specifically, a single PDF should be submitted that contains the following:

- a cover page with title, names of authors, addresses and affiliation;
- an abstract of up to two-hundred words;
- a clear statement of the research objectives;
- a literature review that places the proposed work in the context of existing work;
- a detailed description of the research method and expected results;
- a proposed timetable for completing the paper;
- a copy of (each) researcher's resume.

A related paper, if available, may be enclosed in a separate file.

Researchers should submit their proposals and their vita to severine.cibelly@scientificbeta.com

Proposals will be selected by a selection committee composed of:

- Noël Amenc, Professor of Finance, EDHEC Business School; and CEO, Scientific Beta
- Felix Goltz, Research Director, Scientific Beta
- Abraham Lioui, Professor of Finance, EDHEC Business School
- Raman Uppal, Professor of Finance, EDHEC Business School

The deadline for submission of proposals is September 30th 2019. Decisions on proposals will be made before 30th November 2019. All decisions are final.

Authors whose proposals are selected will be expected to deliver a working paper and present the research at the annual conference of the EDHEC Scientific Beta Research chair. EDHEC will pay reasonable expenses incurred for coming to the conference.