

ICAS RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Research proposals are encouraged under several themes. ICAS seeks research proposals that help to inform the development of policy. Specific examples of research areas that are currently of interest to ICAS are set out below. Other topics will also be considered provided they meet the aims of being relevant to future policy development and are in the public interest.

The Future of Financial Reporting and Assurance

- Implementation and enforcement of principles based standards
- Meeting the needs of users
- The use of different measurement bases
- Highlighting subjectivity and uncertainty in financial statements
- The future of financial reporting and XBRL
- Boundaries of financial reporting and auditing
- Accounting and assurance for smaller companies
- Audit quality
- Collaborative processes for resolving audit problems avoiding cost and time of court proceedings
- The interaction between accounting and taxation
- Corporate responsibility to society and the environment – reporting and assurance
- Interim management statements

Ethics and Integrity

- Practical implementation of ethics and ethical frameworks
- What is an ethical company?
- Accountants' roles in developing an ethical culture in business
- Education of ethics and integrity
- Management pressures and incentives

Key Business Issues

- Market discipline vs. regulatory intervention
- Sustainability of pension provision
- Impact of pension reporting on behaviour
- Encouraging entrepreneurialism in the small and medium sized sector
- Balancing corporate governance and business enterprise
- Defining effective regulation and investigating enforcement
- Reducing the regulatory and administrative burden of taxation
- Achieving tax simplification
- The effectiveness of Audit Committees

Insolvency

- The need for regulation in the debt consolidation market
- Accountability and effectiveness of public sector bodies involved in insolvency, eg the Office of the Accountant in Bankruptcy, the Directors Disqualification Unit
- Impact of recent Insolvency Reforms - personal and corporate

Not for Profit Sector

- Improving accountability of public sector bodies
- The challenges of IFRS implementation in the public sector
- Financing public infrastructure
- Differences in the definition of charities internationally
- Charity conduct and governance arrangements internationally
- Balance and proportionality in the regulation of charities
- Differences in the tax treatment of charities internationally and influence on business structures
- The profile of the UK charity sector in comparison to other jurisdictions
- Trends in the delivery of public services by the charity sector
- The impact of OSCR's activities on the charity sector
- Research into the presentation of charity accounts in other countries

Development of the Profession

- The challenges and threats facing the profession now and in the future
- Cultural factors in the development of the global profession
- The education of tomorrow's accountant
- Effective regulation of the profession
- The development of business education
- Work-life balance
- Voluntary activities by CAs

For details of the application process please see our *Research Funding Brochure* and *Guidance Notes for Applicants* or contact the ICAS Research Centre on : +44(0)131 347 0237 or research@icas.org.uk.

Last updated January 2009