RRBM Responsible Research in Business & Management

RRBM Dare to Care Dissertation Scholar Awards
2027 Application Guidelines

Sponsored by the Community for Responsible Research in Business and Management (RRBM)
with additional support from
the International Association for Chinese Management Research,
Cabells, Sage Publishing, and Emerald Publishing.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2027
Award Decision: May 7, 2027

RRBM Dare to Care Dissertation Scholar Awards are for emerging business and management scholars who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to responsible research that matters to society in their doctoral dissertation research.

Doctoral students selected as Dare to Care Dissertation Scholars in the 2027 award cycle receive financial support in the form of a scholarship of $5,000 as well as intellectual support from among the community of RRBM scholars. In addition, they become part of the college of active Dare to Care Dissertation Scholars who continue to learn with and from one another as they shape the future of business and management research to take on the grand challenges of our world.

Eligible Research Topics and Methods

The Selection Committee welcomes dissertation research that meets the following criteria:

- The dissertation research will generate knowledge or ideas to inform actions, policies, or programs that reduce inequality or promote social justice, especially focusing on the role of business organizations. Topics may include but are not limited to: income inequality; disparities affecting marginalized populations; barriers to access and opportunity; stakeholder well-being; or other dimensions of fairness and inclusion in business and society. Research that simultaneously contributes to meeting one or more of the social or economic dimensions of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are of special interest to this dissertation scholarship program.
- Has a clearly stated research question accompanied by a well-developed and rigorous methodology to address the research question. The use of multiple methods is encouraged, including qualitative (case studies, observations, text analysis), quantitative (surveys, archival empirical), and experimentation (lab and field), as explained in the principles of responsible research.

- Applications will only be considered if the proposed research can provide actionable knowledge or ideas that firms or managers can use to develop policies or practices aimed at reducing economic and social injustice.

The Selection Committee is particularly interested in dissertation research that:

- Is inter-disciplinary and involves stakeholders in the research process, as described in Principle 5 of the seven responsible research principles.
- Incorporates intervention field studies, using randomized controlled trials (RCT) that robustly test theory-informed ideas/treatments (actions, policies, programs) to address the aforementioned justice issues at the individual or collective levels.

The Eligible Applicant

1. ***Is a doctoral candidate enrolled in a business school*** in any of the disciplines as long as the research falls within the domain of the eligible research topics noted above.
2. ***Is at the beginning stage of the dissertation research*** with a clear research question and a well-developed methodology proposed to address the question. Generally, such individuals will have already passed any qualifying exams applicable to their program. In general, we expect that the research should be completed within 12 to 24 months from the award date.
3. ***Demonstrates a commitment to the RRBM Principles of Responsible Research*** through (a) RRBM engagements (e.g., as an endorser of the position paper, an attendee of RRBM webinars, taken or taking the Philosophical Foundation of Responsible Research course (classroom or online), or other engagements) and (b) a statement explaining how your proposed research aligns with responsible research principles in with the application materials (see point e of the Application & Proposal Content).

Recommended Preparation

We recommend reviewing the reading materials listed in the syllabi for the Philosophical Foundation of Responsible Research course. While the course is not currently offered, past syllabi remain available for reference.

You may also find a range of helpful online events offered through the RRBM community.

The Application & Proposal Content

Applications will be accepted online at www.rrbm.network/daretocare beginning January 11, 2027 and must be received by **February 6, 2027**.

To be considered, applications must include each of the following four components. Additional guidelines for each item are provided in the pages that follow.

I. A research proposal – uploaded document adhering to the guidelines outlined below.
II. The applicant's CV – uploaded document.
III. Completion of the online application form – see below for requested information.
IV. Completion of an online recommendation form by two references (must be received by **Saturday 13 February 2027,** end of the day).

I. The Research Proposal

The proposal should be no more than 10 double-spaced pages (12-point font size, approximately 3000 words). As needed, up to five additional pages may be included for references and/or appendices containing tables and figures.

The proposal must include the following sections, clearly labeled and listed in the order below:

a. ***Research question*** – Provide a succinct statement of the major research question being investigated and any sub-questions.

b. ***Literature*** – Explain briefly (no more than 15 references) what the literature informs about your question and the value-added contributions of your study.

c. ***Research question explanation*** - Explain briefly the major research question being pursued and how it relates to the "Eligible Research Topics and Methods" described above.

d. ***Method*** – Explain the research design in terms of sampling, data collection method, measurement, and analytical procedures, with particular attention to using realistic, objective, and actionable independent variables that can reduce injustice and meaningful dependent variables that relate to justice outcomes.

e. ***Engaged scholarship*** - Explain whether and how your research engages relevant stakeholders (e.g., subjects, managers, policy makers, subject matter experts) in the various stages of the research process (e.g., refining research questions, developing or contextualizing constructs and theories, interpretation of discoveries).

f. ***Potential impact*** – Explain who will benefit from the findings of your research, how your research findings may inform managerial or business practices or policies, and how your research may influence business and management to contribute to a better society.

g. ***Alignment with responsible research principles*** – Summarize how your proposal design aligns with the seven principles of responsible research. We do not expect that it needs to reflect all seven principles, but consideration of these principles should improve both the credibility and usefulness of your research findings.

h. ***Research period*** – Describe the anticipated timeline for the proposed research. In general, we expect that the research should be completed within 12 to 24 months from the award date.

i. ***Research budget*** – Briefly describe, in no more than two to three sentences, the greatest area of need in terms of financial support.

j. ***AI Tool Disclosure*** – It is important and expected that your proposal, and the dissertation on which it is based, reflect your own ideas, research, and voice; accordingly, the use of AI tools to write this proposal is discouraged. If AI was used, please provide a statement that clearly discloses how it was used.

II. A current curriculum vitae (CV)

The CV should reflect the applicant's educational and/or professional career, including publications or working papers.

III. The Application Form

The brief online application form will request the following:

About You:

1. Applicant Info - Name, Email, Country of Residence, Website
2. Business School – University, Business School, Department, Country
3. Are you pursuing this dissertation research independently or as part of a research team? If part of a team, explain your role in the project.
4. Approximate number of months between the award date (May 2026) and your anticipated date of dissertation defense.

About Your Proposal:

5. Dissertation Title/Research Question [280 max characters]
6. Provide up to 5 keywords that describe your research and reflect its relation to the scholarship's focus on promoting justice, especially through business and management. [280 max characters]
7. Provide an abstract of your research topic [1,000 max characters; approximately 150 words]
8. What was the inspiration for this question? [500 max characters]
9. What is/are the dependent variable(s) being tested that relate to justice outcomes? [280 max characters]

10. Select the disciplinary area(s) that best fit your research proposal from among the provided options.
11. Select the methods used in the research from among the provided options.

IV. Reference Names

The application form will request the names and email addresses of two individuals who will serve as your references. One reference must be your thesis advisor. The second is your choice but should be in a position to comment on the items below (e.g., the business school dean or director, the PhD program director, or thesis committee members). Reference writers will receive a link to a simple online form where they will be requested to:

a. Comment on the strength of the proposal and your qualification for this award, and
b. Verify the anticipated completion time of the research project.

We strongly suggest that you notify your references in advance of their receipt of the email, and inform them of the expectations and deadline. ***The Scholarship Committee does not solicit, nor does it accept, recommendation letters submitted outside of the online form.***

Evaluation of Proposals

Candidates will be evaluated on the strength of their research proposals and alignment with the scholarship criteria, including alignment with the justice theme of this scholarship. In addition, candidate proposals will be evaluated using the Seven Principles of Responsible Research, ensuring that the proposed research meets the standards of high relevance to the research domain specified in this program and strong methodological rigor with promise of credible findings.

A Review Committee will conduct the initial evaluation of the submissions and identify the most promising candidates. Review Committee members will be senior scholars in the RRBM community, faculty winners of the Responsible Research Award (Management, Marketing or Operations Management), and/or past winners of this scholarship.

A Selection Committee will evaluate the short-listed proposals and make final award determinations. Selection Committee members will represent the community of Dare to Care Scholars, comprising senior scholars and accomplished professors who support the principles of responsible research.

Award winners will be announced May 7, 2027.

Additional Support to The Dare to Care Dissertation Scholars

Award winners receive financial support in the form of a scholarship of $5,000 as well as intellectual support from among the community of RRBM scholars. In addition, they become part of the college of active Dare to Care Dissertation Scholars who continue to learn with and from one another as they shape the future of business and management research to take on the grand challenges of our world.

The following additional support may be available:

- Community support: Periodic virtual gatherings of scholarship recipients, mentors and invited guests to exchange ideas, share progress, discuss solutions to challenges, and other resource or learning opportunities.
- Mentoring: If possible, candidates may be matched to review panel members who can serve as informal mentors to scholarship recipients.
- Journal support: The following journals welcome manuscripts from the scholarship recipients, subject to the normal review process: *Academy of Management Journal*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Organization Science, Management Information Systems Quarterly,* and *Academic of Management Discoveries*. These journals have published most of the winning articles of the Responsible Research Award. The Awards page on the RRBM website lists these award-winning articles.
- Completion celebration: A symposium (online or in person) to celebrate and share the results of the completed projects each year will be considered.

Key Dates

January 11 – February 6, 2027	Applications accepted
May 7, 2027	Winner announcement

Inquiries may be directed to d2c.rrbm@gmail.com.