



Presents

# Benchmark 2023

Research Contest in Finance

## Cash Prizes for Top 3 Papers

Abstract Deadline  
15th Feb 2023



**Business Standard**  
Insight Out

✉ [cfs@spjimr.org](mailto:cfs@spjimr.org)

---

Centre for Financial Studies (CFS), S P Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) is a Centre of excellence in finance. CFS focuses on Research & Consulting, Education and FinTech Accelerator; to enhance thought leadership in Financial Innovation and Markets & Risk.

## About Benchmark 2023

---

- **Benchmark 2023 is a one of its kind practitioner focused research contest.**
- CFS calls for original research papers with practitioner focus in finance focusing on a research question based on one of the themes outlined herewith.
- This contest gives an opportunity to participants to showcase their research skills, espouse high quality practitioner engagement and gain recognition for the same.

# Who can Apply

The contest is open to participants from India or abroad. Applications will be accepted from participants applying, as an individual participant or in a team of two.

The contest has two tracks:

**Young Scholars Track:** This track is open to the following category of participants:

- Pursing a post graduate management degree from a Business School or in the 3rd year or final year of engineering or
- In the final year of a 3-year bachelor's program in commerce, computer science, accountancy, management or
- Recent graduates in any of the above streams with not more than 2 years of experience.

**Doctoral Track:** This track is open to the following category of participants:

- Part of a PhD Programme at any of the leading institutes
- Have successfully completed PhD Programme and working as a faculty or researcher with academia or corporate

The Contest will have three rounds as follows:

## First Round

- The participants are required to submit an **abstract of 500 words**.

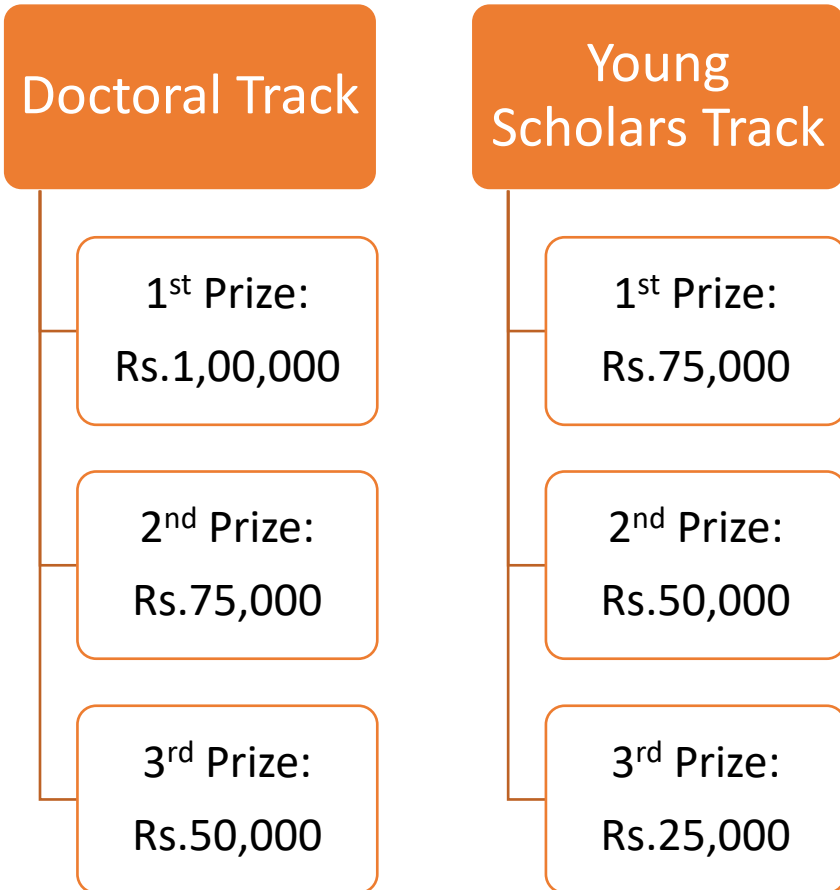
## Second Round

- The Selection Committee will shortlist abstracts from the First Round.
- The teams qualifying for Second Round will be required to submit a **full research paper with a word count of 2500-4000 words** (excluding tables, figures and references).

## Final Round

- The Selection Committee will shortlist the Top 5 papers under each of Young Scholars & Doctoral tracks; a total of 10 papers across both these tracks.
- The top 10 teams will be invited for a **Paper Presentation at SPJIMR campus in Andheri, Mumbai**.
- Out of these 10 teams, the top 3 teams each under Young Scholars & Doctoral track will be recognized and awarded cash prizes by an esteemed Jury Panel

# Awards



In addition to cash prizes, the participants ranking first and second under the Doctoral Track would be eligible to apply for Faculty positions at SPJIMR and would be invited for Faculty Research Seminars.

# Themes

## Broad Themes:

- Financial Innovation which includes FinTech, ESG, innovative ideas or practices in Finance
- Markets & Risks which includes all areas of Financial Markets and Risk Management

## Sub Themes:

- Payment Gateways, including virtual cards, voice payments and blockchain technology
- Artificial intelligence predictions, big data growth and smart algorithms
- Eco-system enablers required for the participation of Indian Banks for financing M&A transactions in the country\*
- Proactive role to be played by players in the Financial sector in the country for effective adoption of ESG framework\*

*The participants are free to choose a research question of their choice pertaining to any area in the above-mentioned topics or they may choose to research in one of the four specific sub themes given below.*

*The best research papers in the sub-themes marked \* will receive an honorarium of Rs. 10,000/- each from SBI Caps and under each of the tracks – Young Scholars & Doctoral tracks. This honorarium is over and above the cash prize that will be awarded to winning teams.*

Benchmark 2023 aims to **enhance industry-academia engagement**. So, the focus is to **enhance thought leadership** that **maximizes practitioner benefit**. Hence the research papers submitted should necessarily have the following 4 aspects. This track is open to the following category of participants:

1. **Define the problem statement** from a **practitioner's perspective**.
2. **Theoretical foundations** / expositions / academic literature referred to build the solutions for the problem statement.
3. **Practical examples from industry** that illustrate the relevance of the problem statement and the solutions.
4. **Solutions and recommendations** that may be **based on industry feedback** (surveys, interviews etc.), similar cases, quantitative analysis or a unique idea. The Paper should illustrate validation of the idea / solutions / recommendations and the results achieved or may be achieved from a practitioner's perspective.

Participants are allowed to use their research published in the last 2 years to build a practitioner focused version of the published research paper. However, submission of an existing published paper with minimal incremental work would not be favourably considered.

*Jury will **focus on practitioner relevance** and accordingly would give higher weightage to aspects 3 and 4 listed above and ideally at least 50% of the paper should focus on these two aspects.*

Participants must properly give references to the publications they have referred to for their submission.

# Timelines

Activity	Deadline
Registrations	31 <sup>st</sup> January 23
Abstract submission	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 23
Results announcement Round 1	15 <sup>th</sup> March 23
Submission of full papers	15 <sup>th</sup> May 23
Results announcement Round 2	15 <sup>th</sup> June 23
Final presentations at SPJIMR Campus	15 <sup>th</sup> July 23

Conference Coordinators	
<b>Manali Phatak</b>	<b>Mrunmai Brid</b>
<b>Phone No: 022-6145-4512</b>	<b>Phone No: 022-6145-4265</b>
<b>Email: <a href="mailto:cfs@spjimr.org">cfs@spjimr.org</a></b>	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:cfs@spjimr.org">cfs@spjimr.org</a></b>

To know more, visit: <https://spjimr.org/benchmark2023/index.html>

In case of any queries or clarifications please email to [cfs@spjimr.org](mailto:cfs@spjimr.org)

**Register Now**