

# FORM OF GOVERNMENT GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS



ICMA is calling for proposals for academic papers from Master's and Ph.D. level students that explore the qualities and actions that demonstrate the strength of mayoral leadership within a council-manager form of government.

The terms "strong mayor" and "weak mayor" have been adopted in public administration to identify the level of formal powers and authority granted to the mayor in the administration of government. The mayor-council form of government is generally referred to as the "strong mayor" form and the council-manager (along with alternative forms of government where the mayor's authority in the administration of government is limited) is commonly referred to as "weak mayor" form.

Each form of government requires mayors to have specific strengths and abilities to be successful within the constraints of the form under which they operate. There is limited scholarly investigations into what makes a mayor "strong" under a council-manager form of government.

**Proposals are due by May 1, 2023, and should be no more than 750 words (excluding bibliography) to [ecooper@icma.org](mailto:ecooper@icma.org).**

- Clearly articulate the research question and methodology for investigation.
- Define the strong mayoral leadership.
- Discuss the importance a "strong" mayor plays under a council-manager form of government.
- Provide a 60-word abstract that engages attendees and demonstrates on how strong mayoral leadership in the council-manager form of government will benefit the community and policy decisions.
- Clearly articulate the methodology and any hypotheses/findings to be addressed in the paper/presentation.

This is an opportunity for graduate students to engage with practitioners, academics, and other graduate students as we collaborate to find ways to improve the quality of life of communities through effective government administration.

Individuals whose proposals are selected will be notified by **June 1, 2023**.

- Accepted papers and presentations will be published online at [icma.org](http://icma.org).
- Authors/presenters will have the opportunity to present their research to ICMA members during the ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas in October 2023. (ICMA will provide travel and lodging scholarships to accepted authors/presenters.)

Individuals with questions can email [ecooper@icma.org](mailto:ecooper@icma.org).