The SWIFT Institute

– Funding independent research
– Supporting knowledge-led debate
– Bringing science and practice together
The financial services industry has built a complex technical infrastructure, a wealth of data and a huge store of mature process, practice and experience. Yet the sheer pace of business change can make it difficult to recognise the lessons and harness the knowledge these resources can provide.

The SWIFT Institute aims to change this by supporting independent, academic research into important topics affecting the industry and its customers worldwide.

The SWIFT Institute, set up by SWIFT, funds independent research, supports knowledge-led debate and provides a forum where academics and financial practitioners can learn from each other.

The primary focus of the SWIFT Institute’s work is transaction banking, covering the areas of payments, clearing & settlement, cash management, trade finance and trust & securities.

“There is often a gap between research programmes underway in academia and engagement with the financial industry. The vision for the SWIFT Institute is to bridge that gap. We want to build a body of research based on robust academic principles, which is accessible and relevant to the SWIFT community. And we want to encourage academic enquiry in our community and between our community and academia.”

— Yawar Shah, Chairman of the SWIFT Board and Managing Director, Citi
Independence is a founding principle of the SWIFT Institute and is asserted when selecting topics and themes for research, as well as approving research proposals and giving grants. The Institute is governed by an Advisory Council of individuals who are thought leaders in their profession or discipline and able to demonstrate a track record of independent thinking. The Council is balanced, including members from both academia and the financial services industry. Advisory Council members’ biographies and affiliations are available on www.swiftinstitute.org.

SWIFT provides funding and secretariat services to the SWIFT Institute.

The SWIFT Institute issues calls for research proposals on specific themes or topics on an on-going basis.

Submissions are reviewed by the Advisory Council, and grants are awarded to support approved research proposals.

Who may apply for funding?
Academics and finance professionals may apply as individuals or teams. For example: university research departments, academics and PhD students, industry professionals, central bank research departments and others who can demonstrate a robust, independent research proposal and objectives, will be considered.

Publicising your research
The SWIFT Institute publishes a Working Paper series resulting from research grants. There are also opportunities to present research directly to the SWIFT community. Researchers may be invited to present at Sibos (the annual industry conference hosted by SWIFT www.sibos.com), as well as dedicated Institute events.

The SWIFT Institute aims to extend understanding of current practice and future needs in global financial services, with a particular focus on transaction banking. Success depends on supporting robust, independent research which is relevant and accessible to members of the SWIFT community. These community members include representatives of financial institutions, infrastructure organisations, central banks and regulatory authorities; corporations; and providers of technology services. Academia and the financial industry will benefit from working more closely together.

Join the debate
Bringing the SWIFT community and academics together to explore ideas, share knowledge and extend mutual understanding is an important part of our mission. We hope you will join the debate and participate in the work of the SWIFT Institute, so together we can learn more about the financial services industry today, and build a better one for tomorrow.

Please visit www.swiftinstitute.org to register your interest or email pETER.ware@swift.com.

We will keep you updated about the work of the SWIFT Institute.

About SWIFT
SWIFT, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, is a member-owned cooperative through which the financial world conducts its business operations. More than 9,700 banking organisations, securities institutions and corporate customers in 209 countries trust SWIFT every day to exchange millions of standardised financial messages.

SWIFT also acts as the catalyst that brings the financial community together to work collaboratively to shape market practice, define standards and consider solutions to issues of mutual interest. This work, and SWIFT’s role as a neutral player in the global financial services community, means SWIFT is particularly well-placed to support and foster independent research into topics relevant to the SWIFT communities and to provide a forum for debate and development.

Who benefits?

SWIFT supports the SWIFT Institute with funding and secretariat services while valuing and defending the independence of its work.