

Interdisciplinary/Inter-Institutional Team-Based Research

Objective

The objective of the Scheme is to promote inter-disciplinary/ inter-institutional team research where complementary expertise is essential. Research collaboration between researchers within an institution or between institutions with varied resources and capabilities is encouraged. Partnership with other university or government or industrial institutions or overseas partners is an integral part of the research project.

Financial Provision

The Scheme will cover financial assistance up to a maximum of MRU 5.0 m over a three-year period. The grant must be used for funding the operating expenses directly related to carrying out the research project.

Conditions/ Criteria

Proposals must meet the definition of interdisciplinary/ inter-institutional research bringing together disparate disciplines and/or institutions. Research proposals will be assessed on:

- The quality of the proposal including the contribution of each of the researchers discipline expertise and how they will interact in novel ways.
- The proposed outcomes, linkages and partnerships, as well as how the project will grow and develop.
- The composition of the team including the inter-disciplinary nature of the researcher composition, but also the inclusion of postgraduate research students/ post-doctoral research fellows is encouraged.
- Ability of the project to build research capacity within the team and the institution
- For joint projects involving external partners, the extent of support from the partner (or partners collectively commensurate with their level of involvement and potential benefit from the outcomes of the project)

Implementation Modalities

- TEC will launch call for proposal inviting each public TEI to submit their research proposals (not more than 5 per institution) ranked in order of priority on the basis of the strength of the proposals
- Each research proposal must have a principal/main investigator and be supported by a clear and detailed description of the issue at stake, the methodology to be adopted, timetable/ Gantt Chart, Annual implementation plans including Targets, budget and performance indicators to be able to report progress on a half-yearly basis .
- The proposals should be submitted confidentially to the Executive Director, TEC
- The Technical Committee at the level of the Commission will evaluate all submissions and make recommendations to the TEC Board, for approval. All decisions taken by the TEC Board are final.

Funding Mechanism

Seed money equivalent to 25% of the value of the research project will be disbursed at the start of the first year to the institution. Subsequent request for funding will only be considered upon receipt of statement of expenditure duly certified by the institution; satisfactory progress reports including achievements against expected outcomes/ targets set for the research at the end of each year as well as budget forecasts for the forthcoming year.

The last 20% instalment of the fund will be released towards the end of the project upon submission of evidence of at least one publication.

Project funding may be used by the successful researcher to cover the following:

Remuneration/ Complementary Scholarships

- Research assistants
- Masters/MPhil/ Ph.D. students
- Postdoctoral research fellows
- Research technicians
- Researchers from outside the institution

Other expenses

- Research material, supplies and analysis fees
- Software/ database purchase
- Production, publishing and printing costs
- International travel costs (max. of 3 visits overseas for duration of project; up to MRU 125,000 per visit)
- Purchase small items of equipment that are shared and are critical to the project (up to a total of MRU 200,000)
- Dissemination of research findings to the public

Equipment

Applications for equipment must be made the first year for any period. The appropriations are issued in full the first year but may be spent any time in the three years covered by the grant. The following criteria are used to evaluate requests for equipment:

- Relevance of the requested equipment for achievement of the research project;
- Availability of similar equipment at the candidate's university or the public universities;
- Overall benefits (accessible to several users, contribution to researcher training, etc.);
- Amount of time the equipment will be used.

Note:

- Project funding will not cover the salaries/ stipends / allowances of the principal and co-researchers.
- In case of poor and unsatisfactory progress, the Commission may at any point in time cease funding of the project
- Funds for the project will be disbursed through the institution.

Expected Outcome

- Improved linkages, partnership and collaboration within the university and with outside stakeholders

- New capability areas in the institution
- Leverage for the university
- Scale-up existing interdisciplinary work in an area with high potential to attract external funding
- Recognition by the research community
- Training of university students from all cycles and postdoctoral trainees

Mandatory Outcome

- At least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Dissemination of research results to the public at large

At the End of the Research

The principal investigator must submit a full report of output/ outcome of the research project through the Head of the Institution to the Commission