

TEAM-BASED RESEARCH IN SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE/ FIELD

Objective

- The objective of the Scheme is to promote research in a specific discipline, requiring complementary expertise.
- Collaboration between academics within a Department/ School/ Faculty/ Institution is an integral part of the scheme.

Financial Provision

- The Scheme covers financial assistance up to a maximum of MRU3.0 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

- Academics with a Master's qualification with evidence of being research active during the last three years.
- The proposed research must be in a specific discipline requiring complementary expertise (to provide justification of the need for complementary expertise).
- The Research proposal will be assessed on the:
 - quality, including the breadth, depth and novelty of the proposal,
 - likely outcomes of the project and anticipated benefits to the institution,
 - track record of the researchers involved and their capacity to deliver the anticipated outcomes,
 - ability of the project to build new capability areas in the institution,
 - training of postgraduate research students (Masters by Research, PhDs, Post-doctoral),
 - extent to which the initiative will enable the team to compete for major external funding and resources.

Implementation Modalities

- Applicants will be invited through call for proposals to submit their research priorities on the basis of the strength of the proposals.
- Each research proposal must have a principal investigator and be supported by a
 - List of publications for the last three years by PI.
 - clear and detailed description of the research problem,
 - the methodology to be adopted, timetable/ Gantt Chart, annual implementation plans including targets, budget and deliverables, performance indicators, to be able to report progress on a half-yearly basis.
- The proposal should be submitted confidentially to the Executive Director, TEC.

Funding Mechanism

- Funds for the project will be disbursed through the institution.
- Seed money to fund the first year of the research as per the project plan will be disbursed at the start of the project.
- Subsequent requests for fund 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.

- Release of funds will be subject to utilisation of 75% of the funds disbursed in the previous year.
- The last 10% instalment of the fund will be released towards the end of the project upon submission of evidence of at least one publication.

Note:

- Funds for the project will be disbursed through the institution.
- The proposed project must not currently be in receipt of significant funding from another source.
- 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.

Expected Output/ Outcome

- Creation of a collaborative research environment.
- Build new research capability and research areas.
- Enhanced potential to compete successfully for external funding.
- Recognition by the research community.
- Dissemination of research findings to the public at large including participation in all events organised by the Commission including the National Research Week and 3-min Thesis Competition; and
- At least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

At the End of the Research

Submit to the Commission a full report of output/ outcome of the research/ project through the Head of the Institution to the Commission.

- Submit a full report of the outcome of the research project, including a section on 'Benefits of Research to the Society', to the Commission through the Head of the Institution;
- Disseminate the research outcome/ findings, including participation in all events organised by the Commission including the National Research Week and 3-min Thesis Competition, if applicable; and
- Publication of at least one article in a peer-reviewed journal.