

Team-Based Research In Specific Discipline/ Field

Objective

The objective of the Scheme is to promote research in Specific disciplines/fields where complementary expertise is required in within a department/School/ Faculty/ Institution. Partnership between academics within the institution 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 niche area research whereby researchers come together to collaborate in a specific discipline. Research proposals will be assessed on:

- The quality, including the breadth, depth and novelty of the proposal
- The likely outcomes of the project and anticipated benefits to the institution
- The track record of the researchers involved and their capacity to deliver the anticipated outcomes
- The ability of the project to build new capability areas in the institution
- Training of postgraduate research students (Masters, PhDs, Post-doctoral)
- The extent to which the initiative will enable the team to compete for major external funding and resources

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
- Selection will be carried out by a Technical Committee at the level of the Commission. All decisions made by the Committee 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. Additional 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.

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:

- 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 Outcome

- Creation of a collaborative research environment within the institution that encourages the development of new groupings
- Build new research capability and research areas in the institution
- Enhanced potential to compete successfully for external funding
- Recognition by the research community
- Training of university students from all cycles and postdoctoral trainees

Mandatory Outcome

- Dissemination of research findings to the public at large.
- At least one publication in peer-reviewed journals

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