

Call for Proposal

Research Funding Program

Research Funding Program (RFP) is an institutional research program adopted by Nizwa College of Technology (NCT), Nizwa. The main goal of the program is to expand and enhance research capacity in NCT. To achieve this, the program supports the creation of teams and networks of researchers and students of NCT with financial support for their research work. It allocates small-to-medium size research grants to short-term and mid-term research projects within the fields.

- Education and Human resources Humanity and Basic sciences
- Information Communication Technology
- Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Energy and Industry
- Health & Social Development

While proposals for RFP grants can relate to any above field of research, NCT assigns a higher priority to research projects with one or more of the following features:

1. Interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research;
2. Pioneering work addressing new and emerging fields of knowledge;
3. Unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions;
4. Projects intended to solve practical problems with matching or partial contributions from industry, academic institutions or government agencies.

Applications can be made in any field of research. To manage the application process, NCT identifies six research sectors. Proposals of an interdisciplinary/ multidisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research would need to be applied against the most relevant sector.

Objective of the Program

1. Encourage research initiatives by individuals or groups of investigators in areas specific to their interest and relevant to their expertise
2. Contribute to human capacity building in research in Oman
3. Cultivate individual creativity
4. Improve the quantity and quality of the pre-doctoral research.
5. Elucidate the role of TRC in promoting research in the country
6. Buildup of research culture in the Sultanate.

Expected Outcomes

1. Develop skills in grant writing and research methodology
2. Develop communications and management skills in research
3. Enhance hands-on training in research
4. Establish a network of researchers
5. Improve research outputs; publications, patents and transfer of knowledge

Target Group

Applications are open to individual or group of teaching/non-teaching faculty members with regular/part-time students of NCT for funding under RFP. The group which has minimum one-third Omanis is preferred for funding.

Evaluation Criteria

NCT Research Committee uses two sets of criteria to evaluate RFP project proposal submissions:

- ❖ Excellence is evaluated by specialized peer reviewers
- ❖ Relevance is evaluated by research committee members

Proposals must adequately address all criteria elements in order to avoid disqualification from being considered for RFP.

There is no guarantee for a qualified proposal to receive funding support. All eligible proposals are ranked based on the evaluation criteria before they are selected for funding support. In case a proposal is rejected, the feedback generated in the review process will be communicated to the Principal Investigator (PI) for an opportunity to improve the research proposal.

Criteria Elements

θ The Principle Investigator (PI) must be an Omani. Non-Omani can be a Supervisor, Co-PI or Co-investigator
θ The Research team (PI, Supervisor, Co-PI, and Co-investigators) must be all registered at an institution(s) affiliated with TRC.
θ The Application should be submitted via The Electronic Submission System (TRESS) on TRC website.
θ The Application requires approval from the IFP.
θ Only one application by the same Principal Investigator should be submitted per call.
θ PI awarded GRSP grant must submit the final report, before he/she can reapply for another GRSP grant.

θ The maximum duration of a GRSP grant is three years.

Rules for Employees

- ❖ Principle Investigator/ Co-Principal Investigator should be a full time teaching/non-teaching staff member in NCT. A minimum qualification of a Master degree is required. He/She should have relevant research publications on the field in which the proposal applied for.
- ❖ Research Team Member can be a full time teaching, non-teaching staff or student of NCT.

1 • PI submits proposal via TRC submission system 2 • Co-investigator/Supervisor approval 3 • IFP approval 4 • PEC evaluates & Ranks proposals 5 • TRC-GRSP committee approves/rejects the funding 6 • IFP/PI notification

NCT Research Committee members score the proposal using the following Scoring scale:

Evaluation comments Score

5 All relevant aspects of the criterion are successfully addressed.

4 The criterion is well addressed, although certain improvements are possible.

3 The criterion is broadly addressed, yet significant weaknesses need to be corrected.

2 There are serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion

1 The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.

Deliverable

Interim Reports

At the half way of the duration of the project/ each 6 month, Interim Scientific & financial Progress Report should be submitted

Final report

Within one month after the end date of the award, the final report should be submitted along with the final statement of expenditures.