

NIZWA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Call for Proposal

Research Funding Program

In an effort to build research capacity and promote research culture in Nizwa College of Technology (NCT), Research Funding Program (RFP) is launched as an institutional research program adopted by NCT. 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 following fields.

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

Though the proposals for RFP grant can be related to any one of the above field of research, Institution Proposals Evaluation (IPE) Committee 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 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
3. Cultivate individual creativity
4. Improve the quantity and quality of the research among the NCT researcher.
5. Elucidate the role of NCT in promoting research in the country

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 maximum 6 teaching/non-teaching faculty members with regular students of NCT for funding under RFP. The group which has minimum one-third Omanis is preferred for funding.

Research Team

1. 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.
2. Research Team Member can be a full time teaching, non-teaching staff or student of NCT.
3. Principle Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator is preferred to have the related research publications to their proposal.
4. The student of NCT should have CGPA 2.3 or more.

Proposal Submission

1. Research proposal with noncompliance with Oman ethics or biosafety will be rejected by NCT research committee directly.
2. If the research activities involving human, animal or genetic ethical considerations or biosafety materials considerations, then prior written permission should be included along with research proposal.
3. The research proposal should be submitted to the head of NCT research committee in the prescribed format in Annexure I by the Principle Investigator.
4. The application requires “participation acceptance” from all the research team member.
5. Only one application by the same Principal Investigator should be submitted per call.
6. PI awarded RFP grant must submit the final report, before he/she can reapply for another RFP grant.
7. The maximum duration of a RFP grant is for three years.

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 (RC) members/ IPE committee members.

The evaluation criteria (Merit Score) of the excellence for a total score of 100 points of the submitted research proposal is as follows:

- Intellectual Merit of the Research question or creative concept. (30 points).
- The Capacity building of the proposal submitted. (40 points).

Capacity building includes:

- Increase effectiveness in the Teaching-Learning process.
- Strengthens relationship with external organizations and providing room for long-term relationship
- Improves quality of life of Omani society
- Improves opportunities for consulting services
- Potential for deployment
- Innovation
- Applicability and relevance to Oman's socioeconomic development and related public policies. (5 points).
- Multidisciplinary nature of research (addressing more than one academic discipline). (5 points).
- The overall quality of the budget composition based on Annexure II. (20 points).

IPE Committee score the proposal using the following scoring scale after :

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.

Proposals must adequately address all criteria elements in order to avoid disqualification from being considered for RFP grant. The eligibility of the proposal is measured based on its excellence report given by the specialized peer reviewers. Then all eligible proposals are ranked based on its relevance before they are selected for funding support. There is no guarantee for an eligible proposal to receive funding support. In case a proposal is rejected, the feedback

generated in the review process will be communicated to the PI for an opportunity to improve the research proposal.

Deliverable

The PI must provide the the deliverables interim reports and final report of the RFP grant as per the guideline given below

- **Interim Reports:** At the halfway of the duration of the project/ each 6 month, Interim Scientific and 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 findings, impact and realisation benefits, and final statement of expenditures. If there are exceptional reasons that will prevent submission of the final report within the period allowed, a written request may be made to NCT research committee by PI, before the due date passes, for the submission period to be extended maximum of 2 months.

Ownership

1. All the equipments and materials bought by using RFP grant will belong to NCT.
2. All research outcomes like results, findings and products will belong to NCT.
3. Any publication from research work funded under this RFP should be in the affiliation of NCT.
4. Any consultancy service under the RFP will require a written contract with understanding on deliberation of fund ownership and effective usage of funds.

Dates to Remember

Submission Deadline : 1st of October
Excellence Report : 30th November
Approval Status : 10th December

References

www.trc.gov.om

Annexure I
Research Proposal
(Maximum 15 pages word document - single spaced)

Project Title.

Project Description.

Provide a description of your research proposal and its overall objectives as well as specific goals you plan to accomplish.

Project Significance.

Explain in general terms why the information gained from this research project will be beneficial.

Methodology.

Clearly state how you plan to accomplish the project goals of the project description. Identify the specific steps necessary to perform your research.

Timeline

Provide a detailed timeline for completion of the project. Be sure to include the goals listed above.

Bibliography

Sources you have consulted in preparation of this proposal, as well as any references you have cited within this application. If you need additional space, use the Appendix.

Author(s), Year, Article title, Journal title, Volume(issue):location. - for research article

Author(s). Year. Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher. Extent. Notes. - for book

Research Team Information. (should be filled by each team member)

Name : _____

Affiliation : Lecturer / Technician / Student

CGPA : _____

Department : _____

Role in research project: PI / CoPI/ Member

Email : _____
Mobile : _____
Extension : _____
Signature : _____

Role and Responsibilities of Each team member.

Highlight the involvement of the each team member including PI/CoPI in the project direction and design.

Budget & Budget Justification.

You must prepare a budget justification as given below which should include an explanation and justification of each item in your budget.

#	Description	Category	Justification	Amount
1				
2				

Declaration.

I, the PI of this research proposal, _____ hereby declare that our research work

- does not involve any experiment on human or animals / biohazardous materials / emissions / wastes.
- is our original work and not copied from other proposal either in part or whole.

Signature of PI

Annexure II

Budget Limitations

Catogary	Max
Chemical	100
Data Collection	100
Equipment and Facility	1000
Glassware	50
Stationary	-
Training	200
Travel and Consultation	200
Use of College facilities	500
Miscellaneous	50
Purchasing of Literature	-
Software	-
Salary & Wages	-
Maximum Total	1200