SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE LONG-TERM (LT) GRANTS

GRANT APPLICATION – YEAR 2020

1. Instructions for Applying for SRC Grants (all types)
   1. Features and Deliverables of SRC Research Grants are as follows.

Table 1: Features and Deliverables

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Duration** | **Maximum grant value (Rs.)** | **Maximum for capital equipment purchase (Rs.)** | **Application review process** | **Key deliverables on the completion of the research project** |
| **Short term (ST)** | 6 months | 300,000 | - | Reviewed by SRC Committee | Report or publication |
| **Long term (LT)** | 1 year | 1,500,000 | 400,000 | Reviewed by SRC Committee or a nominee with subject expertise | Refereed journal or conference paper indexed in Scopus or equivalent indexes1 or databases2 |
| 2 years | 2,000,000 | 600,000 | Reviewed by SRC Committee or a nominee with subject expertise | Refereed journal or conference paper indexed in Scopus or equivalent indexes1 or databases2 |
| 3 years | 3,000,000 | 800,000 | Reviewed by SRC Committee or a nominee with subject expertise | Refereed journal paper with JIF > 0.5 (preferably 1.0) in Scopus indexed journals or equivalent indexes[[1]](#footnote-1) or databases[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| **Capital Intensive (CAP)** | 2-3 years | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | Two external reviewers | Refereed journal paper with JIF > 0.5 (preferably 1.0) in Scopus indexed journals or equivalent indexes1 or databases2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* + 1. All grants can be applied for only when called.
    2. The review for LT and CAP grants is double-blind. Only Section E will be sent to the reviewer/s. Refrain from including information that reveals the identities of the investigators in section E.
  1. Eligibility to Apply
     1. Only three (3) grants in total can be held by an academic staff member (transitionary or above) as a Principal Investigator (PI) at a time; Out of these only 1 can be a ST grant.
     2. All permanent academic staff at or above Lecturer (Transitionary) are eligible to apply. However, priority will be given for first-time applicants.
  2. Limits on Local Travel Expenditure are as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CAP Grants: | Rs. 40,000 |
| LT Grants: | Rs. 40,000 |
| ST Grants: | Rs. 20,000 |

* 1. Monthly Stipends
     1. Research Scholars, Research Assistance and Technical Assistants can be hired under LT or CAP grants only.
     2. The stipend amounts are fixed and rates apply from 01-01-2019 are as follows.

Table 2: Fixed Monthly Stipends

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Qualification** | **Monthly stipend** |
| Research Scholar (full time) | Hired with PhD qualification | 125,000 |
| Hired with MPhil qualification | 100,000 |
| Hired with MSc qualification | 80,000 |
| Research Assistant (full time) | Hired with a class for the first degree | 60,000 |
| Hired without a class for the first degree | 50,000 |
| Technical Assistant (full time) | *Qualification not specified* | 25,000 |

* 1. Financial Assistance for International Conference Registration Fees and for Publishing Papers in International Indexed Journals (e.g., Open Access)
     1. This assistance applied to LT or CAP grants only.
     2. A maximum of Rs. 200,000 can be budgeted in the grant application. Subsequent budget revisions to allocate finds under this vote is not permitted.
     3. Principal investigator and/or co-investigators can request this funding.
     4. Please download the application form available at https://www.mrt.ac.lk/web/research/financial-assistance for further details.
  2. Notes on Capital Intensive Grants
     1. Those applying for Capital Intensive grants MUST be confident of answering Sections B.8.6, E.5, and E.10, positively.
     2. In particular, the referees should be convinced that the research will result in internationally indexed journal publications that are likely to be cited.

1. Proposal Summary
   1. Title of the project:
   2. Abbreviated (running) title in not more than six words:
   3. Key words (from broad to specific):
   4. Duration (not less than 1 year and not more than 3 years. State in months):
   5. Planned starting date (specify a date prior to September 2020. Major equipment purchases should be completed by October 2020).
   6. Grant type (research project only / research project with research students):
   7. Number of PhD, MPhil or MSc projects, if any, to be funded by the proposed grant:
   8. Principal Investigator (PI)[[3]](#footnote-3):
      1. Name:
      2. Contact details

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Home tel. no. | Office tel. no. | Mobile phone no. | Email |

* + 1. Department and present position or designation:
    2. Highest academic qualification and year obtained:
    3. Field of specialization:
    4. List 5 key publications in refereed journals you have authored during the last 10 years:
    5. List the names of postgraduate research students (MSc, MPhil and PhD) supervised by you during the last 10 years. Indicate the postgraduate degree & date of successful completion. Otherwise, state whether the project is continuing or not.
    6. List of major research grants (over Rs. 2 million) received by you during the last 10 years. Project title, amount and funding source.
    7. Are you due for sabbatical/overseas leave during the next 3 years? If so, give details, stating whether you will take such leave and how this will affect the research project.
  1. Names of co-investigator(s) (if any): Please fill Supplementary Form A for each co-investigator.
  2. Research partners and/or relevant contacts you have established (relevant to the proposed project). Give names, organizations and specialization.
  3. Give the name and contact details (esp. email address) of ONE & only ONE potential reviewer (outside the university):

Supplementary Form A

**To be filled separately by each co-investigator**.

1. Name: Underline surname; give title, if any.
2. Contact details

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Home tel. no. | Office tel. no. | Mobile phone no. | Email |

1. Institution, department, and present position or designation:
2. Highest academic qualification and year obtained:
3. Field of specialization
4. List 5 key publications in refereed journals you have authored during the last 10 years
5. List the names of postgraduate research students (MSc / MPhil / PhD) supervised by you during the last 10 years: Indicate the postgraduate degree & the date of successful completion. Otherwise, state whether the project is continuing or not.
6. List of major grants (over Rs. 2 million) received by you during the last 10 years. Project title, amount and funding source.
7. Are you due for sabbatical/overseas leave during the next 3 years; if so give details, stating whether you will take such leave and how this will affect the research project.

Signature of the Co-Investigator

Date:

1. Financial Information

**Requests for amounts exceeding those in Table** **1 will generally not be entertained due to a limited total budget**

* 1. Summary of financial support requested: In Sri Lankan Rupees, inclusive of all taxes.

Table 3: Budget

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **Total** |
|  | Major Equipment |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Minor Equipment |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Services |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Consumables |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Local travel |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stipend |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Publications |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Major Equipment ( > Rs 250,000/=)

For each piece of major equipment, create a separate section (C.2.1, C.2.2, etc.) and describe in detail:

* Scientific justification of the need for this equipment to successfully implement this particular project (e.g., Is such equipment available elsewhere in the university? Can the testing be outsourced for a cheaper price?)
* Critical specifications of the equipment.
* What will be its utility when the project is terminated?
* Evidence of competence on the part of a Principal or other Investigator(s) in the use and upkeep of this equipment: Is there a Sri Lankan agent for the equipment and how long has the agent been operating?
* **Quotations from suppliers:  
  (Please note that quotations from overseas suppliers should include cost, insurance and freight. An allowance of 20% over and above the CIF value should be reserved from the total grant amount for taxes. Please allow for currency fluctuations.)**
* Total cost should be given in Sri Lankan Rupees (including taxes, transport, insurance, delivery charges, maintenance contracts etc.).
  1. Minor Equipment (< Rs. 250,000)

List and price the minor equipment required for the research.

Computers will generally not be allowed, unless a very specific justification is made.

* 1. Services

List and price service purchase from external bodies.

* 1. Consumables

List and price all breakables and consumables

* 1. Local travel

List and justify travelling plan and expenses (see A.3).

* 1. Stipend

Calculate total stipend requirement for research personnel, based on envisaged durations (see A.4 for current rates). Research scholar, research assistant, or technical assistant inputs should generally not exceed 36 calendar months per person.

* 1. Publications

See A.5 for details and amounts.

1. Administrative Information
   1. Has this or a similar proposal for financial support authored by the principal investigator or co-investigators been accepted by or submitted any other funding agency, national or foreign? If so, give the following details:
      1. Name(s) of investigator(s):
      2. Full title of project:
      3. Whether only submitted or already accepted:
      4. Duration (include start and finish dates):
      5. Financial support:
      6. Funding agency:
   2. Declaration by the applicant (i.e., the Principal Investigator):

I hereby declare that all information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Principal Investigator and date:

* 1. Declaration of the Head of Department

I hereby assure that the Principal Investigator of the present proposal will be assured of infrastructural support in human and material resources enjoyed at the inception of the project and guaranteed to be sustained for the whole duration of the latter.

The level of support that will be committed to this project will be very high /significant /adequate ***(choose one).***

Name and Department of Head:

Signature and Date:

* 1. Recommendation of Dean

This project is recommended/not recommended for consideration for funding *(choose one)*

Reasons (if any):

Name and Faculty of Dean

Signature and Date:

1. Scientific Information

**This section will be sent to the reviewers for double-blind review.**

Title of the Project (same as B.1.):

Total budget (same as C.1.7):

* 1. Present state of knowledge in the field of the proposed research, including references: Review the current literate in the field (national and international) to provide the background to identify the research gap, and justify the scientific questions. The literature review must be specific and current. Cite relevant work in recent well-known journals, conferences and other publications.

*[Not exceeding 1000 words, excluding references]*

* 1. Define the problem(s) that your research seeks to address:
  2. State your scientific hypothesis or research question:
  3. Define the specific objective(s) of the proposed research:
  4. Significance of the proposed research:  
     Can the proposed research be expected to break new ground in your field?  
     What innovative approaches does the proposal offer?  
     **What is the likelihood this research being published and cited in the international scientific literature?**  
     What possible benefits could be derived from the findings of this research?

*[Not exceeding 300 words]*

* 1. Describe your experience and outputs in relation to the proposed research:
  2. Detailed description: Clearly indicate (a) Research design and data analysis and (b) Methodologies.
  3. Is there any work to be outsourced to commercial entities? *Yes or No. I*f so, provide details.
  4. Action plan of the proposed research. Give a chronology of all projected operations with time estimation in months.
  5. State the expected **outputs** (deliverables) of the project. Demonstrate a link between the objectives in Section E.4 above and the outputs. Outputs should be verifiable and/or measurable: Make sure easily measurable ones such as the number of journal papers and number of successful research degrees are indicated. List the peer reviewed journals or conferences in which that you envisage publishing this proposed work. How many such papers will be generated? **You are encouraged to aim for peer reviewed journals indexed in Scopus, SCIE, AHCI, SSCI and ESCI; or the top 20 peer reviewed sources (journals & conferences) in sub-categories of Google Scholar Metrics.**
  6. State the **outcomes** of the project. I.e., the impact of the research results will have on the wider scientific community and/or society. If possible, link each outcome to an implementing agency referred to in Section B.10.
  7. What institutions (whether public or private) will be able to meaningfully implement the findings of this research project?
  8. National relevance of the proposed research:
  9. Indicate the possible ways you could give publicity to the results of your research (apart from technical publications), taking into account the nature of the project and the people it would interest.
  10. Indicate equipment already available in the Department or university that will be employed for this research:   
      A list of existing equipment in your Department will signal to the SRC that the main purpose of your application is to perform the research rather than merely to acquire new equipment.

1. Referee Evaluation Form
   1. Evaluation
2. Rate the originality of the proposal (see especially Sections E.1 to E.5):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |

1. Rate the scientific merit of the proposal (See especially Sections E.1 to E.5):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |

1. Rate the national relevance of the proposal (see especially Sections E.12 to E.13):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |

1. Rate the competence of the research team (see especially Sections E.6 to E.11):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |

1. Rate the chance of success of the project (see especially Sections E.6 to E.11):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |

1. Rate the value for money of the project (See especially Sections E.10 to F)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 – Excellent | 2 – Good | 3 – Fair | 4 – Poor |
| Comments: | | | |
|  | | | |

* 1. Decision

F.2.1. Indicate your recommendation regarding the project:

**1** – Recommend strongly; very significant research

**2** – Resubmit next year after improving application

**3** – Decline

F.2.2. Justification for the decision:

F.2.3. Suggestions for improvement (if any):

1. Defined as Web of Science core indexes, i.e., SCIE, SSCI, AHCI and ESCI. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Defined as journal or conference papers in top 20 sources in predefined sub-categories of Google Scholar Metrics. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Refers to a permanent academic staff at or above Lecturer (Transitionary); This does NOT refer to research student(s): [↑](#footnote-ref-3)