



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Form



- **What are the stages of the application process for the research grants, and what is required at each stage?**

Most research grant programs typically follow a two-stage application process.

- First stage - Pre-proposal: an initial assessment of the project's relevance and feasibility
- Second stage - Full proposal: a rigorous peer-review process to ensure high scientific quality and relevance.

Applications are generally required to be submitted online through the official RDIA grants portal, which standardizes and streamlines the submission and review process.

- **In what language can I submit my application?**

You should submit your application in English (default), Arabic is used for some fields.

- **Does the portal feature specific grant opportunities, and what is their typical duration?**

The portal offers a diverse range of grants that are specifically designed to address the four national priorities: Health & Wellness, Sustainability and Essential Needs, Energy and Industrials, and Economies of the Future.

These grants include:

- Basic Science Grant (BSG)
- Basic Science Research Consortium Grant (BSRCG)
- Baseload Applied Grant (BAG)
- Technology Development Grant (TDG)
- Academia-Industry Innovation Grant (AIIG)
- Saudi Emerging Investigator Grant (SEIG)
- Innovation Flagship Grant (IFG)
- Accelerator Flagship Grant (AFG)
- Consortium Flagship Grant (CFG)



Typically, grants have a duration of three years, although the specific duration may vary depending on the requirements. For more detailed information, please refer to the guidelines provided for each grant.

- **How long does it take to receive a grant?**

The typical duration for grant processing, which encompasses revision, resubmission, and the administrative stages, ranges from 90 to 180 days.

- **What types of expenses are eligible for funding under the research grants, and are there any restrictions on specific budget categories?**

In research grant programs, the allocation of funds covers several key categories to ensure comprehensive support for project execution.

- Manpower costs are used for salaries of project personnel including faculty, researchers, and technicians.
- Subcontracting costs provide funds for outsourcing specialized services that are not available within the hosting institution.
- Equipment costs cover both specialized and general equipment necessary for conducting research.
- Travel costs support necessary travel related to conferences, workshops, or collaborations.
- Other operating expenses include miscellaneous items such as materials and supplies directly utilized in research activities.
- Indirect costs address general administrative and overhead expenses that support the research environment but are not directly attributable to specific research activities.

All programs require detailed financial reporting and audits to ensure proper use of funds and maintain accountability.



• Research Grant Programs Information

Program Name	Track Name	Who Can Apply	Grant Cap (SAR)	Support Rate	Application Eligibility
Saudi Basic Science Program (SBS)	Basic Science Grant (BSG)	Single applicant from academia or research institutions	Up to 2 Mn	100% for academic entities, variable for private sector participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant must be from a KSA-based academic entity or research institution Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award The applicant must have a PhD degree or its equivalent The applicant must be an accomplished, active researcher with a track record in coordinating research programs and of achieving significant research outcomes
	Basic Science Research Consortium Grant (BSRCG)	Consortia from 2+ academic entities/research institutions	Up to 4 Mn	100% for academic entities, 85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint applications from at least two entities from academia or research institutions The application must clearly assign a Primary PI (PPI) and a Secondary PI (SPI) The PPI must be affiliated with a KSA-based entity (academia or research institution) Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award PPI and SPI must hold a PhD degree or its equivalent PPI and SPI must be accomplished, active researchers with a track record in coordinating research programs and achieving significant research outcomes Additional consortium members may include applicants from



					<p>academia/research institutions or private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-PI could be KSA- or ex-KSA based, however, proportion of budget spent ex-KSA will be capped at 40%, where applicable
Saudi Applied Research and Technology Program (SART)	Baseload Applied Grant (BAG)	Academia/research institutions or private sector	Up to 1.6 Mn	100% for academic entities, 85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PI must be from a KSA-based academic entity / research institution or private sector Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award Joint applications by 2 or more entities are eligible; the lead entity must be KSA-based The PI should be accomplished with the respective track record and capabilities of coordinating programs of similar scope, achieving significant research outcomes
	Technology Development Grant (TDG)	Academia/research institutions or private sector	Up to 10 Mn	100% for academic entities, 85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PI must be from a KSA-based academic entity / research institution or private sector Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award Joint application by 2 or more entities is also eligible; the lead entity must be KSA-based The PI should be accomplished with the respective track record and capabilities of coordinating programs with focus on technology development, achieving significant research outcomes



	Academia-Industry Innovation Grant (AIIG)	Consortia including at least one academic and one private sector entity	Up to 12 Mn	100% for academic entities, 85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint application from at least 2 entities with at least one academic entity / research institution and one from the private sector The application must clearly assign a Primary PI and Secondary PI PPI and SPI must be from a KSA-based institution Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award The PPI and SPI should be accomplished with the respective track record and capabilities of delivering projects with focus on technology development, achieving significant research outcomes
Saudi Emerging Investigator Grant (SEIG)	N/A	Single applicant from academia or research institutions	Up to 1.5 Mn	100% for academic entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant must be from a KSA-based academic entity or research institution Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local host institution by time of award The applicant must have received a doctoral degree within 7 years of this application A Principal Investigator (PI) (applicant) of an ongoing research grant is not eligible; overall, the PI may only partake in two SEIGs The applicant can only apply for one project as a PI for a specific call
Flagship Program	Innovation Flagship Grant (IFG)	Academia applicants (Universities, Research Institutes)	Up to 10 Mn	100% for academic entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant should be a KSA-based legal entity – a research organization or institution The PI should be an FTE at the



					<p>grant-seeking entity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local inst. by time of award • All the research activities must be performed in KSA apart from exceptional cases when required technical expertise is not available in the Kingdom
	Accelerator Flagship Grant (AFG)	Private Sector applicants (SMEs, Corporates)	Up to 10 Mn	85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant should be a KSA-based legal entity – a private business of any scale such as an SME or Corporate • MNCs should have at least 1 facility in KSA • The PI should be an FTE at the grant-seeking entity • Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local inst. by time of award* • All the research activities must be performed in KSA apart from exceptional cases when required technical expertise is not available in the Kingdom
	Consortium Flagship Grant (CFG)	Consortia (2+ eligible entities)	Up to 20 Mn	100% for academic entities, 85% for SMEs, 50% for corporate entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more eligible entities must collaborate to form a consortium • Applicants should be a legal entity – a research org., inst., or private business of any scale (SME or Corporate) • The leading organization of the consortium should be based in KSA • Saudi nationals can reside ex-KSA at time of application but must be affiliated with a local inst. by time of award



- **Can Saudi national researchers residing outside of KSA apply for the grant, and what are the requirements for collaborating with a KSA-based host institution?**

Saudi national researchers who reside outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) at the time of application and wish to undertake a project with a host institution in KSA are eligible to apply. To qualify, the KSA-based host institution must:

- Engage the Principal Investigator (PI): Employing the PI for the duration of the project.
- Provide a Binding Statement: Confirm the institution's association with the project and support for both the project and the PI. Include this binding statement as part of the application package.

- **What are the criteria to evaluate grant proposals?**

Program	Evaluation Criteria
Saudi Basic Science Program (SBS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific ambition and intellectual merit - Relevance to research topics - PI track record - Project implementation plan
Saudi Applied Research and Technology Program (SART)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellence and novelty - Market insight and potential application - Quality of research team - Project implementation plan
Saudi Emerging Investigator Grant (SEIG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific ambition and intellectual merit - Potential impact and relevance - PI track record and capability - Project implementation plan



Flagship Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical excellence and novelty - Relevance to prescribed RDI Domain - Market demand - Quality of research team - Implementability
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The evaluation criteria across the research grant programs focus on several key aspects to ensure the selection of high-quality projects. Scientific Ambition and Intellectual Merit assess the novelty and ambition of the proposed research compared to existing knowledge. Relevance evaluates how well the research aligns with designated topics or domains specific to each program. The PI Track Record examines the Principal Investigator's previous research achievements and their capability to successfully lead the project. For technology-oriented programs, Market Insight and Application consider the potential market size and the commercial applicability of the results. The quality of the research team is analyzed to ensure that the team has the necessary expertise, experience, and diversity to execute the project effectively. Lastly, the Project Implementation Plan is reviewed for its structure, feasibility, and potential to meet the project's objectives within the proposed timeline. These criteria collectively ensure that all funded projects are scientifically rigorous and aligned with strategic research goals.

- **How are salaries and allowances distributed for project teams, and what happens if a project extends beyond the initial three-year period?**

Salaries and allowances will be disbursed based on the approved budget for a three-year project in accordance with the next Table. In case of longer project, any subsequent years will follow a similar pattern

Year	Payment	Description	Disbursement date
First	First	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the first half of the first year, except researchers	After the contract is signed, implementation plan is approved, and the periodic technical report #1 for the project is submitted
	Second	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the second half of the first year, except researchers	After the annual technical #1 and financial report #1 is submitted



	Third	Researcher allowances for the first year will be disbursed	After the annual technical #1 and financial report #1 is approved
Second	Fourth	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the first half of the second year, except researchers	After the contract is signed, implementation plan is approved, and the periodic technical report #2 for the project is submitted
	Fifth	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the second half of the second year, except researchers	After the annual technical #2 and financial report #2 is submitted
	Sixth	Researcher allowances for the second year will be disbursed	After the annual technical #2 and financial report #2 is approved
Third	Seventh	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the first half of the third year, except researchers	After the contract is signed, implementation plan is approved, and the periodic technical report #3 for the project is submitted
	Eighth	Salaries and allowances to the project staff for the second half of the third year, except researchers	After the annual technical #3 and financial report #3 is submitted
	Ninth	Researcher allowances for the third year will be disbursed	After the final technical and financial report is approved, along with an electronic copy of all scientific outputs for the project

- Guidelines and spending limits for the human resources budget for the research project will be addressed at a later stage (TBA)

Member	Maximum Allowance ¹ (SAR)	Yearly Allowance (Months)	Total (SAR)
Researchers			
Principal Investigator	6,000	10	60,000
Co-Principal Investigator	5,000	10	50,000
Assistants – Part time			
Project Manager	3,000	10	30,000

¹ Allowances are currently under consideration and may be adjusted.



Masters / PhD holders	3,000	10	30,000
Assistants – Full time (Salaries Exclusively for Project Contracts)²			
PhD Holder ¹	12,000	12	144,000
Master ¹	9,000	12	108,000
Bachelors ¹	7,000	12	84,000
Technicians and Administrators			
Technicians	2,800	10	28,000
Administrators	2,400	10	24,000
Professionals (Skillful Labors)			
Staff/Workers and the like	1,600	12	19,200

- Guidelines and spending limits for the human resources budget for the research project will be addressed at a later stage (TBA)

Item	Allowance Incl. Per Diem Allowance (SAR/Day)	Max. Consultation Duration (Days)	Maximum Visits During The Project Period	Providing Tickets	Total	The Total Incl. The Tickets
Within the administrative region for research implementation	1,000	15	unlimited	X	15,000	15,000
Outside the administrative region for research implementation	2,000	10	2	✓	20,000	25,000
Outside the Kingdom	3,000	10	1	✓	30,000	50,000

² These are salaries that are exclusively allocated to full-time individuals contracted for the designated project.



- **What is the maximum amount of budget allowed for international collaborations?**

International collaboration costs developed within the proposal should not exceed 40% of the total budget required.

- **Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted for grant funding?**

Depending on the program. The Saudi Emerging Investigator limit is one proposal per individual, while the rest of the programs is an unlimited amount.

- **What is the maximum number of projects I can participate in, and how many can I lead as a Principal Investigator (PI)?**

The maximum participation limit is five projects, with a maximum of three projects where you can serve as the Principal Investigator (PI). Please note that allowances are provided for up to three participations per month.

- **Are grants provided to institutions subject to overhead fees?**

According to our bylaws, grants provided to both in-kingdom institutions and international partners are exempt from any overhead fees. However, it is important to note that 10% of the total budget of any grant is allocated for operational costs associated with the RDIU's.

- **How can I stay updated on new funding announcements?**

You can stay updated on new funding announcements through the portal by visiting (<https://www.rdia.gov.sa>) and following RDIA on social media (<https://x.com/rdia>, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/research-development-and-innovation-authority-rdia/>).

- **What is the purpose and function of the National Grants Portal?**



The National Grants Portal serves as a comprehensive hub for government grants. It functions as a centralized platform where researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs can easily discover and apply for various government grants.

- **What are the accessibility features and recommended approach for students with disabilities to apply through the portal?**

The current portal lacks accessibility features for people with disabilities; however, efforts are underway to implement necessary improvements and ensure inclusivity for all users.

- **Who can I contact for more information or assistance with the application process for the research grants?**

For any queries related to the application process or specific details about the research grants, please reach out to our support team via email at GRANTS-INFO@rdia.gov.sa. Our team is available to assist you with eligibility questions, budget preparation, technical issues with the submission portal, or any other inquiries you may have.