

## Frequently Asked Questions about RDIA Grants

### How do I access the National Grants Portal System?

**Answer:** To access the National Grants Portal System, simply visit the official website (<https://grants.rdia.gov.sa>) and follow the provided login instructions (User guidelines)

### How do I register to use the Grants Portal?

**Answer:** To register for the Grants Portal, you'll need a unique email address (Official email ended with .sa) and mobile number to complete the sign-up process on the portal's website. Simply click on the registration link (<https://grants.rdia.gov.sa>) and follow the provided instructions.

### How do I apply for a grant once I'm logged into the portal? And can I apply for more than one grant program at a time? Which file types are acceptable for uploading?

**Answer:** To apply for a grant, log into the portal and navigate to the grant application section. Follow the instructions provided for each grant program you're interested in. If you are eligible for multiple grant programs, you may be able to apply for them separately. During the application process, you will be prompted to upload any required documents. Make sure to review the specific file types accepted for uploading (ex. pdf, docx). Once your application is complete, follow the instructions to submit it. For more information, please follow this link (User guidelines).

**How can I access an application that I've already submitted? What do the various application statuses on the Application Status page signify?**

**Answer:** You can retrieve all of your submitted applications through your grant portal dashboard. This enables you to review the application's specifics, observe its status (e.g., accepted, in progress, rejected), and consider any feedback offered by the reviewers, allowing you to take appropriate actions

**How much time do I have to work on my application? I've submitted an application and I need to make changes. What should I do?**

**Answer:** The timeframe to work on your application varies depending on the grant program and its guidelines. It is important to review the specific grant's instructions and deadlines.

**How long does it take to receive a grant? How is "innovation" evaluated?**

**Answer:** The typical duration for grant processing, which encompasses revision, resubmission, and the administrative stages, ranges from 90 to 180 days. The assessment of "innovation" takes place through a peer-review process. It hinges on factors such as the originality of the proposal, its potential to create an impact, and the viability of the outlined research plan .

### **Can I delete or withdraw a submitted proposal?**

**Answer:** Absolutely, you have the option to delete or withdraw a submitted proposal. To proceed, kindly consult the guidelines available within the grant portal or get in touch with the grant support team at (<mailto:GRANTSINFO@rdia.gov.sa>) for comprehensive instructions.

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

**Answer:** You can submit your application in English (default) and Arabic for some fields .

### **Does RDIA fund non-Saudi researchers?**

**Answer:** RDIA does provide funding for non-Saudi researchers. However, it's important to note that non-Saudi researchers must be associated with a Saudi institution in order to meet the eligibility criteria for funding .

### **Does the portal have specific funding areas? What is the typical duration of the grants?**

**Answer:** The portal has a wide range of funding programs, including: • Young Scholars Grants (YSG) Program • Basic Science Grants (BSG) Program • Exploratory Consortium Grant (ECG) Program • Baseload Applied Grants (BAG) Program • Technology Development Program (TDP) • Technology Breakthrough Program (TBP) Reactivation and Rebuilding Grants (RRG) for Existing Labs. The typical duration of grants is three years. However, grants can vary depending on the program. Please, refer to the program's guidelines for more information

### **Are there formal funding deadlines on the portal? Do unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?**

**Answer:** The funding deadlines are specified for each program. Please, refer to the program's guidelines for more information. Yes, unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback on their applications .

### **Where can I find information on grants I am eligible for?**

**Answer:** You can locate information regarding grants that you are eligible for within the program guidelines

### **Are there grants available for students?**

**Answer:** Certainly, RDIA provides grants for students. To gather further details about student grants, kindly visit RDIA's grant website

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

**Answer:** 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 .

### **How can I stay updated on new funding announcements through the portal?**

**Answer:** 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://twitter.com/rdia> , <https://www.linkedin.com/company/research-development-and-innovation-authority-rdia/>) .

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

**Answer:** The current portal doesn't support accessibility features for people with disabilities. Efforts are underway to implement necessary improvements and ensure inclusivity for all users.

### **Nationality?**

**Answer:** All local researchers in KSA are welcome for the grants Foreign researchers can participate as consultants in all grants, or as a Secondary PI only in the RCG.

### **Budget items ?**

**Answer:** There is a maximum ceiling for items, and each item must include the following: a. The maximum allocation for the manpower item is 40% of the institution's approved budget. B. The maximum garnishment allocation is 75% of the organizations' approved budget. T. The maximum value-added tax items is 15% of the approved budget. Th. The maximum limit for other items is 15% of the approved budget. C. It is specified in the guidelines for research natural sculptures (a maximum of 40% for the foreign partner), and clarifies the foreign partner's disbursement plan when submitting the research proposal

### **What is the maximum involvement of a faculty member in RDIA Grants?**

**Answer:** A faculty member can be involved in 1 project as a PI in one grant with the maximum involvement of 3 as PI and 2 as Co-I in all grants. However, the maximum compensation will be for 3 projects at the same time.

**Will these Grants be announced annually?**

**Answer:** Yes, the RDIA plan is to announce these Grants Annually.

**How long will it take to receive the final decision about the proposal approval?**

**Answer:** It will take a maximum of 2-6 months.

**Is there a maximum limit of projects per organization to be approved by RDIA under each grant?**

**Answer:** No, it is on merit basis. It depends on the quality of the proposals and their review.

**. How many proposals can a faculty member submit at max?**

**Answer:** There is no limit but should abide by RDIA maximum submission limit.

**Can a Postdoc be a PI of these Grants?**

**Answer:** No. Postdocs can be involved as CO-I or Part-time PhD holder assistants. The maximum compensation is 3 projects at the same time.

**For Applied Research, are patents must?**

**Answer:** Each track has its own guidelines and requirements. However, patents are highly encouraged for further findings.

**What are the IP rights in these Grants?**

**Answer:** The IP rights are according to KSU IP policies.

**Under Technology Breakthrough Grant (TBG), can the partners be from highly reputed Institutions instead of Industry?**

**Answer:** No problem, industry or institution.

**should it be related to RDIA strategies?**

**Answer:** It is highly recommended to align with the 4 national priorities by RDI.

**What is the maximum limit of team members in 1 proposal?**

**Answer:** There is no such limit, the number of team members depends on the research work to be conducted and it's part of the evaluation by the reviewers.

**Can we purchase major equipment through these Grants?**

**Answer:** Yes with respect to the KSU regulations.

**Will involving Highly Cited Researchers in the project team give it higher chance/priority for awarding?**

**Answer:** No. Proposal evaluation will be merit-based and based on fulfilling the Grant conditions and requirements and the positive feedback of the reviewers.

**For International partners, should the consent be at the individual level consent or institutional level?**

**Answer:** Both are ok. However, the individual level consent is preferred in which he/she will have to obtain the consent from his/her institution

**There are four main focus areas (main RDIA national priorities) and specific national priority topics. Does a proposal have to address specific national priority topic(s) only or is it sufficient to have it aligned with main focus areas?**

**Answer:** The mentioned national priority specific topics are intended as guidance to the applicant, and as long as their proposal fits in the generic main national priority areas that will be acceptable. It will be good to have the proposal related to specific national priority.

**Can a staff member with an MSc degree be involved as a Co-I?**

**Answer:** No, senior team members have to be PhD holders. Staff members with MSc degrees can be involved as assistant team members.

**For a Research Consortium Grant (RCG), should it be limited to the specified topics?**

**Answer:** Yes. It is important to focus on the specified Grant Research Topics as per the Guidelines.

**What about the involvement of the MATH department?**

**Answer:** Faculty and researchers in the Math Department, or from other basic sciences, can get involved and participate as long as their proposals are aligned with the topics in the Call for Proposals.

**Is the 3 projects compensations limit valid for all categories or only for PIs and Co-Is?**

**Answer:** The compensations are limited to only three per month for project team members.



**All compensations are for 10-months. How about if the faculty decided to stay during their annual vacation to perform research on the project. The compensation should be at least 10/month (similar to NSTIP).**

**Answer:** In case of hiring on the project (such as postdocs) the compensation is for 12 months not only 10 months (refer to Assistants – Full time, in the guidelines, table 3).

**Is the maximum involvement of 3 projects as PI based on the grants or initiatives?**

**Answer:** The maximum involvement in a given grant as a PI is 1 project. The maximum involvement as a PI is 3 projects but necessarily in different grants.

**Under the hiring of full-time under these projects, how we should cover other expenses like health insurance, GOSI, housing allowance ...etc?**

**Answer:** The Salaries for Project Contracts should cover all other expenses. For example, in the case of hiring a Postdoc, 12k SAR / month salary will cover health insurance, GOSI, housing allowance ...etc.

**Is the institution overhead calculation on top of budget or part of the budget (I,e, for the basic science grant the max is 1.6 million, will the overhead going to be included and the total should not exceed 1.6 or the project cost can be 1.6 million and overhead will be added to that?**

**Answer:** The overhead cost will be included within the total budget. So, the overhead cost (10% of the total budget) must be added as an item in the project budget.

**We learned that the “limit for Reactivating and rebuilding labs” has changed. Do you have the update limits?**

**Answer:** 4 M SAR.

**for the consortium application: (RCG)**

**a) is co-funding a requirement?**

**Answer:** NO, and it is discouraged to preserve the IP rights.

**b) is it limited to organization inside the Kingdom or organizations outside are accepted?**

**Answer:** At least the applicant must be in KSA. Any other combination is possible, for example: 1 Saudi university and 4 Local Industries, OR 1 Saudi university and 2 International universities and 3 local industries.

**c) are the partners supposed to be Universities?**

**Answer:** Industrial partner is prioritized in the reviewing process; as stated in the guidelines.

**d) is funding expected to share with partners?**

**Answer:** For international partner(s), there is a limit to the shared fund (max of 40% of the total budget) provided that the fund use will be clearly justified in the proposal. For local partners, justify the shared fund in the proposal between all parties.

**Is the maximum involvement of 5 projects as PI and Co I based on the grants or initiatives?**

**Answer:** The maximum involvement of 5 projects is based on the grants. However, the PI and Co I eligible to get compensation only for three projects.

**What is the percentage of International members Vs local members in a proposal?**

**Answer:** The International member must be no more than 25% of the total number of the main team.

**Is affiliation with a Research Center a must before submitting a proposal?**

**Answer:** No, but it's highly encouraged for non-affiliated faculty to affiliate with Research Centers to access more support.

Grant Name	YSG	BSG	RCG	BAG	TDG	TBG	RRG
Grant Cap, SR	1,600,000	1,600,000	10,000,000	1,600,000	10,000,000	20,000,000	4,000,000
Duration, year	5years	4years	5years	4years	5years	5years	3years
Eligibility	(PI) must have received their PhD within 5 years of this application OR PhD holder who is away from research (evidence should be provided)	(PI) must be a PhD holder or its equivalent + from a Saudi based institute	Joint Application from 3 applicants + Primary Principle Investigator (PPI) must be from a Saudi institution + PPI and SPIs are PhD holders or its equivalent	PI must be A PhD holder or its equivalent + from a Saudi based institute	Joint Application from 2 applicants + Primary Principle Investigator (PPI) must be from a Saudi institution	Joint Application from 2 applicants + Primary Principle Investigator (PPI) must be from a Saudi institution	The research lab/center should be based in KSA.

	Or PhD holder who has not published in the last 3 year						
Team guides	At least: 1- 1 PI 2- 1 CoPI	At least: 1- 1 PI 2- 1 CoPI	1 -1At least: 1- 1 PPI 2- 2 SPIs 3- 3 Co-PI (for each PI)	At least: 1- 1 PI 2- 1 CoP	At least: 1- 1 PPI 2- 1 SPI 3- 2 Co-PI (for each PI)	At least: 1- 1 PPI 2- 1 SPI 3- 2 Co-PI (for each PI)	Lab application NA