1. National Research Program for Universities (NRPU)

Overview

Dearth of research literature / hi-tech lab equipment is a major impediment to the productivity of many creative and talented faculty members/researchers in universities/degree awarding institutions. In most cases, the researchers also require substantial financial support in pursuit of their research initiatives/objectives. In the absence of such facilities, the researchers, specifically the younger ones, are discouraged and are forced to seek better opportunities in developed countries.

To meet the current challenges of researchers working in local universities/DAIs of Pakistan as also to further promote the R&D culture, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has, inter alia, initiated a National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) as per researcher's needs/requirements.

Program Objectives

- To meet current challenges/ requirements of researchers working in local Universities/ Degree Awarding Institutes (DAIs) of Pakistan.
- To promote research & development activities in local Universities/ DAIs of Pakistan in all disciplines.
- To promote scientific research in areas relevant to national needs.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Principal Investigator (PI) has to be a full-time regular faculty member (BPS or TTS) or on contract for not less than the project life.
- PI must have an advanced academic degree (PhD or M.Phil, /MS) & relevant experience of working as an academician/researcher but not as an administrator.
- Period of execution of the Research Project should not be exceeding three (03) years.
- PI can execute or submit only two (2) research projects simultaneously under any of the HEC funded research grant programs either under NRPU or any other program including those ongoing, submitted or under review.

Eligible Universities/Institutions

All full-time regular faculty members & researchers (BPS or TTS) or on contract for not less than the project life at all public sector universities and following selected private sector universities/DAIs:

- GIK Institute of Engineering & Technology, Topi
- Aga Khan University, Karachi
- Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore
- National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST), Islamabad
- Indus Institute of Higher Education, Karachi
- Institute of Business and Technology, Karachi
- Foundation University, Islamabad
- Riphah International University, Islamabad
- University of Management Technology, Lahore
- Zia ud Din University, Karachi
- The University of Faisalabad
- Institute of Business Management, Karachi
Application Requirements

The applicants will submit their research proposals online through HEC web portal (http://eportal.hec.gov.pk) on or before the deadline announced by HEC. Following documents are to be attached with the application form at the time of submission of the research proposal:

- One (01) set of original hard copy of prescribed Application Form (Annex I) duly filled along with soft copy must be submitted to HEC through the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) / Research Office/Office of the Registrar of the respective university of the PI.
- Detailed CVs of PI and all Co-PIs
- Turnitin report of the proposal.
- A clearance certificate from the Institutional Bioethics Committee (IBC) of the university/ DAI, if required.
- A brief on the impact of proposed research.
- An industry support letter, if required.
- A letter of consent from the collaborating partner/agency expressing willingness to collaborate.
- One page summary of each project of PI already executed/ ongoing/ submitted for consideration to any funding agency.
- Original invoices / quotations for permanent equipment costing over Rs.0.1 million.
- Year-wise tentative schedule/program of all local visits under the project (if study involves field survey/field work) with details of all expenses including rates and justification.
- Project activities on Gantt Chart.
- Copy of appointment letter of the PI.

Guidelines for ORIC/Research Office/Registrar Office

- The Principal Investigator (PI) has to submit one complete set of original hard copy of the proposal duly signed from all relevant authorities of the university along with soft copy of duly filled Application Form to HEC, through the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC)/Research Office/Office of the Registrar of his/her university.
- The ORIC/Research Office/Office of the Registrar of the respective university will ensure while receiving hard & soft copy of the proposal from the PIs that original relevant documents are attached with, in line with the checklist.
- Furthermore, ORIC/Research Office/Office of Registrar of respective university will compile basic information of all research proposal(s) of respective university in a single MS-Excel
Sheet, as per enclosed template and will make it available along with complete record of all the proposals to HEC.

- The ORIC/Research Office/Office of Registrar will ensure that same online system generated project ID# must be allotted to each of the received research proposal (hard copy & soft copy) and on MS-Excel Sheet so that same proposal may be traced in hard/soft form using MS-Excel Sheet.

- After doing all needful, the ORIC/Research Office/Office of Registrar will send a complete bundle consisting of all the Research Proposals from their respective universities (one complete set of duly filled original hard copy & soft copy each), along with complete record of all the proposals in a single MS-Excel Sheet—via surface mail/Special Messenger— to Director (R&D), HEC on or before the deadline announced by the HEC.

**Financial Provision:**

HEC provides funds as per the following details:

- The research grant will normally be provided for a period of one to three years. However, there is no restriction on the lower limit.

- Maximum funding under NRPU may be up to Rs. 20 million. However, permissible limits of HEC with reference to the cumulative Impact Factor of the Principal Investigator are as follows:

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- Lab equipment, chemicals/glassware and accessories as per requirements of the project, with justification.

- Journal Publication fee/online material: maximum up to Rs. 50,000/-

- Studentships for MS/M.Phil. Students @ Rs 20,000/- per month and for PhD students @ Rs. 25,000/- per month are admissible.