

 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Programme Brief Research Scholarships</h2>	Issue No:
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<p>Main objective: To encourage young graduates to conduct research leading to MPhil. or PhD</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To encourage young graduates to follow postgraduate programmes in Sri Lanka and to encourage them take up research-based careers in the country. 2) To enhance research capacity in young graduates. <p>Corporate Plan Reference: 2019-1.4.2</p> <p>Corporate Plan Objective: 1.4 Continue to facilitate capacity building of researchers and institutions on existing and evolving areas of research, motivate and inspire for effective engagement</p>		
<p>Rationale:</p> <p>At present there is very low output of postgraduate research degrees from Sri Lankan Universities. It is important to attract and encourage graduates from recognized Universities to conduct fulltime research leading to research degrees in order to encourage them to take up careers related to research.</p>		
<p>Programme consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme will provide assistance to supplement financial support for graduates to conduct full time research (within Sri Lanka) leading up to 2 years for MPhil and up to 3 years for PhDs. • These grants are disbursed in all fields of Science & Technology including Social Sciences and Humanities, after thorough review of applications and interview by the NSF. <p>The programme will,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⬆ Develop human resources for R & D ⬆ Facilitate potential IP and technology commercialization ⬆ Facilitate international and industry collaboration ⬆ Enhance research capacity 		
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<p>Programme guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for Research Scholarships will be advertised once a year in the NSF website (www.nsf.gov.lk). • Applications could be downloaded from the NSF web site. The duly completed application (only the e-version) should be sent to the National Science Foundation via email to schol@nsf.gov.lk • Applications where the project is already supported by another institute, will not be accepted. • Funds will be provided only for the monthly Stipend, Post Graduate Registration Fees, Travel & Subsistence and a limited amount for Consumables. • The applications are screened for conformity with the eligibility criteria of the NSF. • Applicants must be citizens of/ residing in Sri Lanka and should be registered with the STMIS database of the NSF and committed for fulltime research in Sri Lanka. • Applicants should be graduates with a class in a Bachelors degree from a recognized University OR without a class in the Bachelors but with a MSc or MPhil Degree. They should also be registered and be accepted by a Faculty of Graduate Studies/ Postgraduate Institute/ Faculty of a recognized University, for the postgraduate degree applied for. • The applicant should submit the softcopy of the proposal accepted by the Higher Degrees Committee (HDC) of the relevant University and the evaluation reports received by the HDC on the proposal. • Priority will be given to research proposals addressing issues identified as national research priorities and/ or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Priority will also be given to proposals addressing industry needs/problems which will be done in collaboration with industry. • The applicant should have strong recommendations from all Supervisors. • The applicants who satisfy the NSF eligibility criteria are called for an interview with the Research Committee of the NSF to evaluate the credibility of the applicant and to justify the requested budget. • The recommended/rejected applications are submitted to the Board of Management of NSF for approval. • Once the Scholarship is approved by the BoM, if the certification by the HDC (proof of registration/provisional registration) has been submitted to the NSF, it will be awarded and the Contractual Agreement will be finalized. At this point the applicant has to submit a hardcopy of the submitted Scholarship application with signatures. • Funds will be transferred to the University/ Institute where the research is carried out. • The Scholar should submit half yearly Progress Reports (physical and financial reports) according to the NSF guidelines/ format. In addition, the Scholar should submit a letter certified by the supervisor and the Head of the Department on the satisfactory progress of the project, including the Progress Report submitted to the HDC half yearly and the Evaluation Report from the HDC half yearly. 		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Statement certified by the Bursar/Accountant for 06 months should also be submitted. Further, the Scholar will have to present the progress at a special forum organized by the NSF. • The KPIs of the project will be strictly followed and thoroughly monitored. The Scholarship coordinating officer at NSF will be attending the University progress review meetings of the scholar. • It is mandatory to have at least one publication relevant to the project for a MPhil. and at least two publications relevant to the project for a PhD, published (or at least accepted) in SCI journals, by the end of the scholarship. • At the end of the Scholarship period the Scholar should submit the Final Financial Report within one month and the Final Report as per the NSF format within three months. In addition, a copy of the Final Post Graduate Dissertation should also be submitted once it is accepted. 		
<p>Outputs: Human Resource Development</p>		
<p>Target groups /Beneficiaries Sri Lankan Graduates</p>		
<p>Possible Collaborators/Partners None</p>		
<p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant should be committed to complete the project and submit a copy of the Final Dissertation to the NSF • The supervisor is equally responsible to ensure that the project is completed, and a copy of the Dissertation is submitted to the NSF 		
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