

## Guidelines for Applicants

### NSF Competitive Research Grants

1. Applicants for the Competitive Research Grants Scheme must be citizens of and residing in Sri Lanka registered with the STMIS database of the NSF.
2. Principal Investigator should be in the permanent cadre of his/her institution.
3. Early carrier researchers (Less than 40 years of age and within 04 years of obtaining postgraduate degree) are encouraged to apply.
4. Those who wish to read for postgraduate degrees under the proposed project are not eligible to be Principal Investigator/Co-Investigators.
5. If the Principal Investigator is not from a university and the research student is registering for a postgraduate degree, a Co-Investigator from the university where the research student is registering should be included to the research team.
6. A scientist is eligible to hold only 02 ongoing grants as the Principal Investigator. Applicants who have 02 ongoing grants should not apply for a new grant, until the Final Report of the previous grant is submitted.
7. The proposed research project should necessarily be an original investigation or continuation of research.
8. Priority will be given to research proposals with high economic impact and/ or social benefits.
9. Maximum project period should not exceed 03 (three) years. However, for Principal Investigators who have not received any research grant before (NSF or other funding sources), the duration of the project should not exceed (02) two years and the total budget should not exceed Rs 3 million (excluding allocations for research personnel).
10. A comprehensive literature review should be done and all details should be provided together with the list of references.
11. The budget should be reasonable and justified in detail.
12. A detailed time-based work plan (Gantt chart) should be included stating the proposed activities, time frames and key performance indicators clearly.
13. Research proposals which address inter-disciplinary work, require to have expertise from each of the relevant disciplines as Co-Investigators or Collaborators. If Collaborators are there, it should be supported with letters of consent (Annex II).
14. Projects that require ethical clearance/ necessary permissions should submit the certificate with the application or within one month from the deadline for submission of the application to the NSF. The fee for ethical clearance, if any, can be requested and reimbursed if the application is approved for funding.

15. Only one grant will be awarded to an Investigator as the Principal Investigator at one grant call. However, there is no restriction to submitting multiple applications.
16. Narrative CVs of all investigators should be submitted.

**Narrative CV (maximum *word count 1000*)**

- Profile
- Educational qualifications
- Training and/or research experience in the proposed research area
- National level contributions through research and innovation
- Latest 10 publications/ patents

17. Applicants may indicate persons, that they think should not review the project for reasons of conflict, for consideration by NSF.
18. Soft copy of the application should be sent in both MS Word and PDF formats.
19. Late, Incomplete and Inaccurate applications **WILL NOT** be considered.
20. Please note that the decision of the NSF is final.

**Guidelines for Non-State Sector Applicants**

In addition to the above,

- (a) The NSF will bear 50% - 70% of funds under each vote of the project, whereas the balance 30% - 50% should be borne by the applicants.
- (b) The grantee/s should provide a bank guarantee of 10% of the total project cost, effective for the entire grant period before NSF release funds required for the project.