

 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	Programme Brief - Competitive Research Grants	Issue No :
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<p>Main objectives: To initiate, facilitate and support basic and applied scientific research for development of R & D for socio – economic development of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Specific objectives: To strengthen scientific research potential including research in the social sciences and science education programmes, develop natural resources of Sri Lanka, promote the welfare of the people of the country and train research personnel in Science & Technology (S&T)</p> <p>Corporate Plan Reference:1.2.2 Objective: (1.2) : To drive, promote and support RD & I initiatives aligning with the national research needs</p>		
<p>Rationale : The NSF supports R & D activities of Sri Lankan scientists in all fields of Science & Technology, the outputs and outcomes of which will ultimately benefit the Sri Lankan Society. Accordingly, the Competitive Research Grants facilitate and encourage scientists to carry out research of high standard, to strengthen the research base and promote R & D activities directed towards the socio-economic development of the country.</p> <p>These grants also provide assistance to supplement the resources in universities, science and technology institutes by supporting basic and applied scientific research, while promoting capacity building of S & T personnel.</p>		
<p>Programme consideration :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage researchers to utilize their knowledge to carry out research that would benefit the society by contributing to national development and the advancement of science. • To provide assistance to supplement the financial and physical manpower resources available for scientific research in the scientist's home institution. • To Strengthen the infrastructure facilities of laboratories by supporting the purchase of research equipment. • To facilitate science and engineering graduates to pursue research degrees at postgraduate level at a recognized university in Sri Lanka. <p>Grants are disbursed in all fields of science and technology after competitive evaluation through the approved review procedure of the NSF.</p> <p>The programmes under this may consider :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and strengthening operational framework for R & D • Encouraging the buildup of research teams • Increasing time bound outputs of the projects • Developing human resources for R & D • Developing and strengthening R & D infrastructure 		
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<p>Programme guidelines :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for grants will be advertised once a year in local newspapers and in the NSF website: www.nsf.gov.lk Application can be downloaded from the NSF website and duly completed application should be sent (only the soft copy) to the NSF via email (rgrants@nsf.gov.lk). • Applicants for the Research Grants must be citizens of, and residing in Sri Lanka and registered with the STMIS database of the NSF. • The Principal Investigator should have a permanent position. If on contract, the contract period should cover the duration of the project. • The Principal Investigator (PI) should have a postgraduate research qualification and publications/patents in relevant area. • Co-investigators should have postgraduate qualifications and research experience supported with publications/patents. • Any other member of the research group who does not meet the criteria for PIs and CoIs could be listed as collaborators. • Co-Investigators should make a significant contribution to the project while assuming the responsibility for all aspects of the project. • Those who wish to read for postgraduate degrees under the proposed project are not eligible to be Principal Investigators or Co – Investigators. • Full-time Research Students registering for a postgraduate degree can be allocated only for the PIs with two years of postdoctoral research experience. • For the PIs who have not received any Research Grants before (NSF or other grants), the total budget should not exceed Rs 2 M, excluding allocations for Research Personnel unless and otherwise decided by the Board of Management. • Cost of Equipment. Equipment costing more than Rs. 1 M should be requested under the Equipment Grants Scheme of the NSF. • The applications will be processed by the NSF with regard to its conformity with the NSF guidelines. Late, Incomplete and Inaccurate applications will not be processed. • The selected applications will be sent to two reviewers for evaluation. Based on the evaluation reports submitted by the two reviewers and the technical report by the Scientific Officer (SO) the relevant Working Committee will make a collective recommendation for funding, not funding or for revising the applications. The applicant may be invited to make a presentation on the proposed project if required. • These recommendations will be reviewed and harmonized by the Research Advisory Board and its recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Management for approval. • The applicants whose applications have not been approved by the Board, will be informed with reasons 		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicants whose research proposals have been approved by the Board will be requested to send a hard copy of the original application with signatures at this point. The award letter and the contractual agreement will be sent to the applicants whose research proposals have been approved by the Board. The fund will be disbursed subject to satisfactory physical and financial progress. Half yearly Progress Reports according to the NSF format should be submitted through the Head of the Department / Division with his/her comments by the Grantees for evaluation by the relevant Working Committee until the completion of the grant period. Irrespective of the date of commencement of the project, the progress reports should be submitted by 15th June and 15th December every year by the grantees. The work carried out should be presented by the Principal Investigator at the half - yearly Progress Review Seminars organized by the NSF. Site visits to the project sites will be made by the Working Committee to assess the progress. A comprehensive Final Report (three hard copies & one soft copy) according to the NSF format should be submitted within 03 months from the date of completion of project period. The Final Report that needs to be revised will be returned to the Principal Investigator for resubmission with revision. Once a final report is accepted the Working Committee gives a grading “Very Good”, “Good” or “Average”. Certificate/s will be sent to the grantee/s whose Final Reports receive “Very Good” or “Good” grading and these also will be considered for the NSF Research Awards. The follow up activities will be coordinated by the NSF. 		
<p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the scientific research potential and the capacity of R & D personnel required for the socio economic development of the country. Identification of prospective areas for research commercialization and technology transfer. Enhance the research infrastructure facilities available in the laboratories in universities and R & D institutions. Publication of research findings in local and international journals Dissemination of important research findings through public fora, news paper articles, seminars, workshops etc. 		
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<p>Target groups</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>Direct target group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists and Engineers with postgraduate qualifications presently working in Universities, Research Institutes and R & D organizations. <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>Indirect target group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Institutes, R & D Organizations, University laboratories, Science and Engineering graduates • People and industries of Sri Lanka 		
<p>Possible Collaborators/Partners</p> <p>R & D Institutions, Local Universities and Industries</p>		
<p>Remarks :</p>		
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