



Programme Brief Research Scholarships

Main objectives: To encourage young graduates to conduct research leading to MPhil or PhD

Specific objectives: 1.4.2 Continue to provide research scholarships for research capacity enhancement

Corporate Plan Reference: 2019-1.4.2

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

Rationale:

At present there is very low output of postgraduate research degrees by the 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.

Programme consideration:

- This programme will provide assistance to supplement financial support to graduates to conduct full time research (within Sri Lanka) leading up to 3 years for MPhil and PhDs.
- These grants are disbursed in all fields of Science & Technology after thorough review of applications and interview by the NSF.

The programme will,

- ▲ Develop human resources for R & D
- ▲ Facilitate potential IP and technology commercialization
- ▲ Facilitate international and industry collaboration
- ▲ Enhance research capacity

Prepared by: Head /RD
Signature:

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Signature:



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Programme guidelines:

- Applications for Research Scholarships will be advertised twice a year in the local newspapers and 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 (schol@nsf.gov.lk).
- 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 but with a MSc or MPhil. They should also be registered and be accepted by a Faculty of Graduate Studies/ Postgraduate Institute/ Faculty of a recognized University.
- 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.
- Research Proposal should address an issue identified as a national research priority based on the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF). (<http://nastec.gov.lk/index.php/2014-03-11-05-08-50/nrdf>)
- Applicant should have a strong recommendation from the Supervisor.
- The applicants who satisfy the NSF eligibility criteria are called for an interview with the Research Advisory Board to evaluate the applicant and the budget for research expenses.
- The recommended/rejected applications are submitted to the Board of Management for approval.
- Once the Scholarship is approved by the BoM, if the certification by the Higher Degrees Committee (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 for research expenses and the monthly stipend will be transferred to the University.
- The Scholar should submit half yearly Progress Reports according to the NSF guidelines. 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. 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.
- At the end of the Scholarship period the Scholar should submit a Final Report as per the NSF format within 03 months. In addition, the Final Post Graduate Dissertation should also be submitted once it is accepted.

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Outputs: Human Resource Development		
Target groups /Beneficiaries Sri Lankan Graduates		
Possible Collaborators/Partners None		
Remarks <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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