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WORKSHOP FOR FRGS APPLICANTS

Anis Nurashikin Nordin Research Excellence Unit Research Management Center 21 December 2020



Introduction

Philosophy

 FRGS scheme intends to encourage fundamental research to generate knowledge that will contribute to intellectual development, creation of new technologies and fostering a dynamic culture within the nation.

• Aim

• To accelerate generation of new theories, concepts and ideas that can be the catalyst to new discoveries and break through the boundaries of knowledge and innovative creation



Definition of Fundamental Research

- 'Basic research that generates new ideas, principles and theories, which may not be immediately utilized; though are the foundations of modern progress and development in different fields
- The goal of fundamental research is to gain/discover new knowledge and understanding of the physical world that may lead to:
 - new theories or extending and refuting existing theories, models or algorithm
 - policy recommendation
 - improving technology at the fundamental level.



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Expected Research Output

Sustainable Development Goals



Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 Key Economic Growth Areas

3



6

KEGA 6:

II

KEGA 11:

Renewable

Energy

Hub

Halal & Food

KEGA 2: Digital Economy

2

KEGA 3: KEGA 4: Industrial Content **Revolution 4.0** Industry

5 KEGA 5:

ASEAN Hub

KEGA 7: Commodity

KEGA 8: Logistic, Transportation & Sustainable Mobility

8

KEGA 9:

Coastal &

Maritime

Economy

14

KEGA 14:

Modern

Services

Advanced &

KEGA 10: Centres of Excellence

10





KEGA 12: Green

Economy

Malaysia 2.0

KEGA 13: Smart & **High Value** Agriculture

13

15



KEGA 15: Malaysia Truly Asia



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Fields of Research





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Rules and Regulations

Duration of Service	• At least one year
Sabbatical	• Not more than 6 months
Co-researcher	• At least one co-researcher with the same expertise
Patent Search	• http://lens.org/
Industry Partners	• Encouraged to have partnership
Risk Management	• SWOT analysis



LEADING THE WAY

FRGS Evaluations

Kulliyah

University

MOHE



FRGS Evaluations

- Clarity. How researchers cross-reference current literature and patents in laying out their premises.
- Content. How researchers organize their ideas around aims linked to their hypothesis.
- Coherence of concepts. Do researchers present coherent set of ideas predicated by previous work.
- Cutting edge. Novel research. Do researchers take legitimate risks?



Characteristics of a high quality research proposal

- Informative title
- Convincing executive summary
- Clear problem statement and objectives
- Scientific background and rationale;
- Good selection of research methods
- Ethical considerations;
- Realistic budget and schedule



FRGS Evaluations

Components of Evaluations

- TITLE
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- RESEARCH BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES
- METHODOLOGY
- TRACK RECORD & COMPOSITION OF TEAM
- EXPECTED RESULTS
- QUALITY OF PROPOSAL
- ELEMENT OF FRGS CRITERIA
- ADDITIONAL INFO PATENT SEARCH

Grading Scale

- VERY GOOD (9-10)
- GOOD (7-8)
- ACCEPTABLE (5-6)
- POOR (3-4)
- VERY POOR (1-2)
- IF THERE ARE ANY SECTION THAT SCORES <5 – AUTOMATIC REJECTION



FRGS Evaluations





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- Title:
 - Novel
 - Reflects fundamental issues
 - Brief
- Example:
 - <u>Novel method</u> to synthesize polymeric biphasic microparticles using droplet microfluidic lab on a chip
- Wrong:
 - <u>Development</u> of autonomous farm tractor systems for agricultural operations



• Executive Summary should contain

- Problem statement, objectives, methodology, expected output, Significance of output
- Be concise
- It is the most important part of your proposal
 - First impression of the reviewer will be based on the summary



- Objectives should be
 - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic aand within timeframe (SMART)
 - Reflects the solution/output to the problem
- Example
 - <u>To model a novel</u> droplet microfluidic platform capable of synthesizing biphasic micro-particles
 - <u>To develop a novel protocol</u> to synthesize micrometer sized particles from monomer droplets



- Research background should
 - Elaborate the title
 - Explain the problem statement
 - Include a hypothesis and research questions which help solve the above problems
 - Cite recent references
 - Relating to current government policies



- Methodology should
 - Explain the methods to conduct the research (experiments, interviews, statistical analysis)
 - Try to be inline with the research objectives
 - Flowchart, Gantt chart and Milestones should match with each other

Research Deliverables



Expected Results should include

- Novel theory Paradigm Pioneers
- At least TWO Publications in Indexed Journals
- PG students
 - 3 year project 1 PhD
 - 2 year project 1 MSc
- Impact to society
- Encouraged to file for patent
- Max Budget: RM250k

Quadruple Helix





Choosing your research team

- Should include researchers with a track record of having successful research project
- Researchers in the team should be qualified in the <u>area</u> that you wish to research in
- Team should be balanced to include both experienced and non-experienced researchers
- Adding too many researchers or those who are not related to the field of research reflects badly on your proposal



Quality of Research Proposal

- Research proposal should be of high quality
- No grammatical, spelling mistakes or technical mistakes
- Meticulous!!



New Criterion in FRGS 2020

Only evaluated if proposals scores > 75%





Patent Search

- Objective
 - To create awareness amongst researchers on producing unique and innovative research.
- Http://lens.org
- To highlight existing research and to avoid submissions of proposals that are not novel or has less impact to the society and nation



Collaborations

- Objective
 - To encourage collaborations with industries or agencies
- Evidences
 - Letter of Intent
 - Other documentation
- Encouraged for FRGS

Research Collaborator

- International/Industrial Linkages (Please identify any industry or end-user group involved in the project, and describe its role/contribution to the project)
- Agency/Organisation (Please identify all agencies/organisations collaborating in the project, and describe their role/contribution to the project)



Risk Management

- Types of Risks
 - Technical
 - Time
 - Budget
- Levels of Risk
 - Low
 - Medium
 - High
- Encouraged for FRGS





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Budgeting

V11000	V21000	V24000	V27000	V28000	V29000	V35000
 GRA PhD RM2,300 MSc RM1800 	 Local Conferen ces -PI and GRA Internatio nal Conferen ce – PI (2nd Year onwards) 	 Building, equipmen t, transport , etc. Directly related to the project 	• Research materials and supplies	 Maintenanc e and minor repair Only within the duration of the grant 	 Professional services: printing, honorarium , consultatio n, training (<3 months), fees 	• Special equipment (e.g. camera, tape recorder), upgrading of existing equipment, computer, printer



Conclusion

- Focus on fundamental research
- Read the guidelines in detail
- Proposals should be prepared meticulously
- Good research team and Realistic budget
- May Allah ease your tasks and ALL THE BEST!!