

## Notes from Tips and Tricks for FRGS 2024 By Prof Ir. Dr. Abdul Latif Ahmad (17/11/2023)

- 1) Make sure your proposal is a good research proposal that allows you to apply not only for FRGS but also for other grants. The proposal must be **IMPACTFUL, FUNDAMENTAL, & IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTRY.**
- 2) FRGS must be new knowledge discovery gained. (Basically answering 'How' and 'Why'. For example new theory, correlation, or new mechanism of new novel material.
- 3) The research proposal must obtain an **85% marks and above to be in the top 25% ranking proposal.** That means each section **MUST obtain 8 MARKS & ABOVE.** There are 27 questions in the FRGS form.
- 4) The title, problem statements, objectives, hypotheses, and research questions must be the same (must be the same fundamental issue)
- 5) The research proposal must be written in a way that it can defend itself without the PI.
- 6) When the evaluator reads the proposal, they **can see the impact of the research, especially benefitting the country.**
- 7) **Read the FRGS 2024 guidelines** (the latest one; it's pink in color)
- 8) **ATTENTION TO PI WHO APPLIED FRGS IN 2023,** but got rejected due to lack of budget and the evaluator advised applying back in 2024. **Please kindly revamp your title and executive summary again.** All the proposals will go through a similarity index check. The similarity index will be higher if you submit the same application. And the evaluator will know that this proposal has been rejected in 2023. Therefore they will reject it once again without looking at the reason. So **please revamp your title, executive summary, and other parts as well to avoid being rejected once again in 2024.**
- 9) Criteria for good research proposal:
  - Must have aim and purpose
  - Title must sound fundamental, and catchy, highlighting subject and subject matter. The title must reflect the whole work; short & simple.
  - Objective must be concise and solid (must be critical highlighting the fundamental research). Must be result-oriented.
  - Research background – problem-solving that brings impact to the country. Must be creative and innovative in writing.
  - Research problem – must be fundamental, and must be impactful to the country.
  - Methodology – please include a flow chart of your study; must be complete and reflect the objectives. Do not put it in the appendix. Add in the text.
  - Outcome must be realistic and accruable
  - Milestone – reflecting the methodology
  - Reference – preferable to use the latest 3 years; must be relevant and up to date. Can also use references within 5 years. Do not use old references, unless it is crucial important for your research. Limit to only 15 references.

- Budget must be detailed & convincing. Show the calculation and itemize it. Include quotation.
- Milestone – include common activity
- FRGS outcome – talent (1 PhD or 2 Master students) and 2 publications ( 1 WOS & 1 Scopus/My CITE)
- Justify on equipment used because it relates to vote 29000.
- Risk assessment **MUST FILLED IN**. Do a SWOT Analysis and explain Opportunities and strengths.
- For **Technical tick LOW** (If you put high, then the evaluator might think something is wrong in the team); **Time ticks HIGH** (depends on whether you have a student or not); **Financial tick MEDIUM** (this will tell the evaluator if they slash the budget you still can run your research). Please do an explanation of the risk assessment.
- Patent search & collaboration. (Extra marks)- please do it. Patent search should be increased. Should highlight the one in other Asian countries like Singapore, Thailand, or Indonesia. If Malaysia doesn't have it, you should highlight your research should be done, if not our country will be left out without your research findings.
- Conference fee should be in vote 29000; traveling for the conference should be in vote 21000. **Propose 2<sup>nd</sup> year for National Conference; 3<sup>rd</sup> year – International conference.**
- PI, please update your CV in My grant system. The evaluator loves to read them.
- Expected Result – New theory, new mechanism, or finding related to the fundamental issue.
- Team member – minimum 2 maximum 5. Well, balance team.
- Appendix must be only questionnaire/ collaboration letter/ quotations
- Make sure to tick right categories for:
  - Research Domain
  - Research cluster
  - 17 'Big Bolds' in Ekonomi MADANI
  - 10-10 Malaysia Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy (MySTIE) - based on 10 Socio-Economic Drivers
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Research Related Ministries (including agencies thereof)