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**GUIDELIENS FOR THE FACULTY RESEARCH INCENTIVE GRANT 2014**

The purpose of the ‘Faculty Research Incentive Grants’ is to strengthen the research capabilities of Abu Dhabi University. The grant provides seed funding for efforts that will ultimately enable Abu Dhabi University to become one of the select few private universities in the UAE with a research emphasis.

The objectives of Abu Dhabi University’s “Faculty Research Incentive Grants” are:

* To support the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030 roadmap, that will form the architecture of the economic and industrial development of Abu Dhabi.
* To promote and develop faculty research and scholarly production.
* To develop Abu Dhabi University as a Center of Research Excellence by building a state-of-the-art research infrastructure to support the research activities of faculty, students and community.
* To develop Abu Dhabi University as a preferred research hub for local, regional and international scholars.
* To increase capacity of the university to attract external research income from government, foundation and corporate sponsors.
* To familiarize the faculty and students with the latest research technologies.

Proposals are invited from all disciplines. Proposals for interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.

**Eligibility of the Applicant**

* Applicants must be full-time faculty members at Abu Dhabi University.
* Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams of researchers.
* Applicants must receive endorsements from their Department Chairs and their Deans.

**The Funding Details**

* Each proposal will be eligible for a grant up to AED 20,000.
* Grant funds can be used for instructional release time, equipment, software, research assistants, expendable supplies, publication costs and travel.

**Proposal Submission**

Please submit all proposals electronically to Ms. Jammie Velandrez at jammie.velnadrez@adu.ac.ae before 5:00 pm, November 16, 2014. Successful applicants will be notified by December 02, 2014.

**Duration of the Study**

The maximum duration of the project execution is one year, starting from the date of acceptance of the proposal.

**Expected Results**

* Principal investigators will be responsible for submitting a final project report.
* Principal investigators of funded projects are expected to submit grant proposals to external funding agencies by the end of the project completion.

**Priority Areas of Research**

Priority will be given to proposals with high potential for external funding. These proposals will have the potential for major impacts on society, and the capacity to enhance Abu Dhabi University’s role in knowledge production, application, diffusion, and absorption. The following emerging research areas are considered to be of high priorities:

* Environment
* Energy – Oil & Gas
* Information and Communication Technology
* Health Care
* Public Administration
* Knowledge Economy
* Transport and Tourism
* Sustainable Cities
* Innovation and Entrepreneurship
* Women Empowerment
* Culture and Religion
* Petrochemicals
* Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences
* Logistics
* Trade
* Media
* Financial Services
* Telecommunication Services

Give details of the research infrastructure that would be developed within the college/University as a result of this project. These include the purchase of equipment, tools, etc., to be purchased for the project resulting in the enhancement of research capacity of the College/University. List the department/Majors/Programs that would directly benefit from such infrastructure development.

**Guidelines for Proposal Submission**

The proposal must be submitted in the specified application form. The proposals would include the following components:

* **Cover Letter:** The letter should include the title of the research project and the relevance and significance of the research issue that is addressed.
* **Project Abstract:** Prepare an abstract summarizing the project’s research objectives, significance, methodology, and anticipated benefits to Abu Dhabi and the UAE.
* **Objectives:** Provide clear and itemized objectives for the research. This section should include a discussion of specific criteria that can be used to evaluate the progress and success of each project objective. Explain how these objectives contribute to the industrial, economic and/or social development of the UAE.
* **Methodology:** Provide a detailed description of the strategies and methodology planned to achieve the project objectives.Describe how each specific objective will be achieved, with enough detail to enable an independent and informed assessment of the proposal. This section should include the details of research task, data collection, data analysis, and specific tools that will be used in the study.
* **Background and Literature Review**: Provide the topic background including the current state of affairs in the field and the significance of the proposed initiative to Abu Dhabi and the UAE. Provide enough survey of related literature and research based justifications for the proposed study.
* **Research Impact**: State the potential impacts and benefits of the proposed project. There should be enough explanations on how the proposed research adds to knowledge in the field and/or makes substantive contributions to the scientific and technological development in the UAE. List the applied benefits of the proposed research on UAE society and/or industry.
* **Involvement of ADU Students:** Abu Dhabi University highly encourages the participation of students in the research process. Indicate whether students will be involved in the project, their level of participation and how does the proposed research contribute to enhancing their research skills or career.
* **Potential for External Funding**: State the potential for external funding and mention the organizations, including the private business organizations and industrial establishments that would possibly be approached for external funding. Also state the possible time schedule for approaching such organizations.
* **Development of Research Infrastructure**: Give details of the research infrastructure that would be developed within the college/University as a result of this project. These include equipment, tools, etc., to be purchased for the project resulting in the enhancement of research capacity of the College/University. List the Departments/Majors/Programs that would directly benefit from such infrastructure development.
* **Schedule:** Estimate the duration of the project and provide a schedule showing individual tasks with significant milestones to be accomplished.
* **References**: Provide a reference list of citations for any documents or materials referenced in the proposal.
* **Budget**: Present a realistic budget, showing cost estimates for Research Assistant stipends, Equipment, tools, supplies, services, travel, etc. Include a justification for budget items. If the project is co-funded, indicate the total project budget and list major budget items requested from Abu Dhabi University.
* **Any other information**: Any other information or specific argument you feel would be important to the Selection Committee in evaluating your application.
* **A brief CV of participating researcher(s)**: The CV must specify at least the following:
	+ Name of the researcher(s), position and contact details.
	+ Lists of publications, research interests and achievements in the related area.
	+ List of previous projects funded by ADU or any other funding agency and their outcomes.

**Proposal Review and Approval**

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

* **Originality of the Proposal**: The degree of originality of the proposed idea/project.
* **Relevance of the Proposal to UAE Industry and Commercialization Potential**: The degree to which the proposal addresses present or future priority issues of the country and the region. Also, the extent of the project relevance to the UAE industry and potential for commercialization.
* **Project Methodology**: The degree to which the proposal represents a creative, scientific and practical approach to the accomplishment of objectives of the study in the specified timeline.
* **Literature Survey**: Completeness and relevance of the literature cited in the proposal.
* **Applicant’s past scholarship/Expertise**: Expertise of the applicant(s) in relation to the proposed project.
* **Cost effectiveness**: Budget is complete, realistic, and justifiable.
* **Potential for receiving external funding** and potential for longer-term sustainability beyond the period of the proposed funding.

The following assessment sheet will be used for evaluation of the submitted proposals:

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| --- | --- |
| **Assessment Criteria** | **Rating Score** |
| **Items** | **Weight** | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Good** | **Very Good** | **Excellent** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| * 1. Originality of the Project
 | 15% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Relevancy to UAE Industry and Commercialization Potential
 | 15% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Research Methodology
 | 20% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Literature Survey
 | 10% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Relevance of Investigators (Background and Experience)
 | 15% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Cost Effectiveness
 | 10% |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Potential for External Funding
 | 15% |  |  |  |  |  |