

## KSA International Collaboration Grant

### FAQs

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## 1. Who is eligible to receive this grant?

Collaborations should consist of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) with a full-time position at a Saudi public university under the Ministry of Education, or a Saudi national with a full-time position at a Saudi private or independent university in KSA and at least 1 Co-PI with a full-time position at a non-Saudi, university that appears on the MoE's recommended university list.

PIs and Co-PIs must have successfully completed PhDs. It is up to the collaborating team to determine how many PIs and Co-PIs should be involved in the research.

Researchers from private, government and not-for-profit entities can also serve as Co-PIs as a part of the collaboration. Collaborations can be based on already existing collaborations, or on newly established relationships as long as they bring together the capabilities, expertise and resources necessary to address the proposed research. A PI can only be named as a Co-PI on one other proposal. Likewise, an individual named as a Co-PI on a proposal can only be named as PI or Co-PI on one other proposal.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

## 2. What is the application process?

The Research and Development Office (RDO) will require a Research Proposal to be submitted electronically in order for a collaboration to secure funding. Specific details on how to submit will be released in due course. Information on the proposal is provided in the International Collaboration Grant Guidelines document. It is the responsibility of the local PI to ensure the proposal and all related documentation is submitted to the RDO on time.

The [application form](#) has three sections:

1. Research proposal
  - 1.1. Project information
  - 1.2. Proposal summary in English
  - 1.3. Proposal summary in Arabic
  - 1.4. Key-words
  - 1.5. Principal and Co-Principal Investigators and Research Teams
  - 1.6. High-level summary of funding requested
  - 1.7. Background to research proposal including literature review
  - 1.8. Detailed scientific methodology
  - 1.9. Research environment
  - 1.10. Collaborative strength
  - 1.11. Grant governance
  - 1.12. Grant management
  - 1.13. Compliance
  - 1.14. Alignment with Vision 2030 and national priorities
  - 1.15. References
  - 1.16. CVs
  - 1.17. Letter of support from the international collaborator
2. Spend plan
  - 2.1. Year one
  - 2.2. Year two
  - 2.3. Year three

3. Declaration of originality
  - 3.1. Originality
  - 3.2. Alignment with the university's overall R&D strategy
  - 3.3. Resources and facilities are available to support the project

The Research Proposal must be submitted by **4pm on October 29th, 2018, in one single PDF file.**

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

### **3. When will I find out if I am successful and would the grant arrive?**

Once the proposal deadline has passed we will undertake a thorough, independent, peer-review evaluation process in order to identify the successful proposals. We will notify successful bidders as soon as this has been completed. The first of the three annual instalments will be delivered to successful bidders after this. The grant will be delivered to the KSA collaborator who will be responsible for managing its distribution.

### **4. Who can be part of the team?**

It is up to the PI to determine how many Co-PIs and researchers (including graduate students) should be involved in the research. Researchers from private, government and not-for-profit entities can also serve as Co-PIs as a part of the collaboration. PIs and Co-PIs must have successfully completed PhDs. Every proposal must include at least one international Co-PI. The international Co-PI should be a researcher at an academic institute, not only an external consultant.

We expect PhD students and occasionally Masters students, either in KSA or overseas, to be part of the team.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

### **5. What is an acceptable level for the similarity index?**

As a general rule, similarity index should not exceed 25% for every proposal.

### **6. What are the minimum required outcomes from any proposal?**

The RDO expects significant outcomes from all collaboration. This includes high-quality publications, patents and developing new products and techniques. You will need to state your expected outcomes in the proposal and then report back to us when they happen. Successful bidders will be provided templates for reporting.

### **7. How should I distribute the budget in the spend plan?**

Every proposal must justify the distribution of the budget based on the proposal needs. Up to one third of the grant can go to the international collaborator but any equipment purchased should stay in KSA. We expect the proposals to justify clearly the proposed breakdown and the needed resources .

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

## **8. How do I submit a proposal?**

All proposals must be submitted electronically as a single PDF. Further instructions for proposal submission will be announced on the ICC website, RDO and ICC Twitter accounts ahead of the submission deadline.

## **9. How did you choose the topics for the Grand Challenges?**

At the successful International Collaboration Conference in April 2018, the responsible committees and the RDO identified four challenges that are highly important for Saudi Arabia based on the recommendations from the expert participants.

## **10. Will the RDO help in providing support or data needed to execute a project?**

No, it is the responsibility of the collaborators from both institutions to identify necessary data and organize any logistical needs. The RDO will serve to distribute funding, and evaluate project progress on a yearly basis based on a set of project status forms to be made available for successful proposals.

## **11. Can different Saudi PIs work with the same international Co-PI?**

Yes, a single international Co-PI can be involved up to two proposals, with clear justification for the contribution.

Overall, individual PIs and Co-PIs can be included in no more than two proposals. A PI can only be a PI on one proposal but they can also be a Co-PI on one other. A Co-PI can be a Co-PI on up to two proposals. Co-PIs can be Saudi based or international.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

## **12. Is it possible to add more PIs and Co-PIs to the proposal after approval?**

It is the responsibility of the KSA PI to ensure that the research team is properly selected based on the research needs. The PI must make sure the proposal and all related documentation is submitted to the RDO on time. Any changes to numbers of Co-PIs after the approval will need to be approved by RDO.

## **13. Can I be involved in multiple proposals?**

Yes, you can be involved in up to two as PI or Co-PI.

Overall, individual PIs and Co-PIs can be included in no more than two proposals. A PI can only be a PI on one proposal but they can also be a Co-PI on one other. A Co-PI can be a Co-PI on up to two proposals. Co-PIs can be Saudi based or international.

If you are PI or Co-PI on certain projects you may still be part of the wider research team on other projects.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

**14. I am a researcher from a non-Saudi university, how can I participate?**

The application needs to be led by a PI from KSA, so to be involved you would need to establish a direct relationship and write the proposal together.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

**15. Can the grant pay for researchers, including graduate students, in KSA and overseas?**

Yes, you can use the grant to pay for the research team that is needed, but this must be justified in the proposal. The fund can cover the human resources needed to work on the project as long as it obeys the general rules laid out in the guidelines. Each PI is responsible for allocating part of the budget as an allowance for the research team and justify that and wither the allowances will be paid hourly, daily or monthly and for how long. Graduate students and researchers are important. The evaluation will look into that as part of our review process.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).

**16. Are researchers from private and public research canters eligible?**

Collaborations should consist of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) with a full-time position at a Saudi public university under the Ministry of Education, or a Saudi national with a full-time position at a Saudi private or independent university in KSA and at least 1 Co-PI with a full-time position at a non-Saudi university that appears on the MoE's recommended university list.

For more information please read the [guidelines document](#).