APPLICATION GUIDELINES

FOA Title: Graduate Students Research Grant in Health Colleges (Pilot Grant)

Program Title: Research Training Program

Program Type/ Code: HRT01 Research Training Awards

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

FUNDING YEAR: FY 2023

OPEN SUBMISSION DATE: 19-03-2023
PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 04-05-2023

Funding Opportunity Announcement Synopsis

General information

		Code
Funding Organization	Saudi NIH	
Administration Information	Research Office-Programs Management Office	PMO
Funding Type	Grant	G
Application Type	New	
Funding Program	Research Training Program	HRT
Program Type/ Code	Research Training Awards	HRT01
Funding Opportunity Title	Graduate Students Research Grant in Health Colleges (Pilot Grant)	SNIH-RO- HRT01-2302
Opportunity Announcement and Submission	19-03-2023	
Proposal Submission Deadline	04-05-2023	
Maximum Allowed Budget	SAR 20,000	
Project Period	6 months to 1 year	
Clinical Trial Allowability	Optional: Accepting applications that either propose or do not propose clinical trial(s).	
Cost Sharing Requirement		

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants	Graduate students in Health Colleges

Additional information

Scope	Supporting graduate students throughout their research project with the objective of equipping them to conduct epidemiological studies, preclinical, clinical, and translational research.
Description	Saudi NIH established this grant to support graduate students throughout their research projects and empower them with world-class knowledge and expertise in translational research and clinical trials.
Funding Activity (Area)	Scientific and Clinical Research
Objectives	o Building human capital through training across scientific health research. o Developing talents in order to strengthen the Kingdom's position as a global leader in science, technology, and innovation. o Ensuring harmony among students, government, and health research entities. o Serving the Health Sector Transformation Program under Vision 2030.
Mapping to the Saudi NIH Strategic goals	o Enhance skills. o Empower careers. o Cultivate leaders.

Indicators of Success	o Knowledge and skill retention illustrated in research papers, patents, products, policies, guidelines, and regulations. o Training completion rate marked by a final report. o Training certificates. o Scientific awards and acknowledgments. o National and international collaborations and partnerships. o Increased national human capital and capacity in scientific health research.
Contact Information	GRANTS@SNIH.GOV.SA

Executive Summary

A vibrant society, a thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. These are the pillars of the Saudi Vision 2030, which is the foundation upon which the Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) is established. Saudi NIH will help to achieve the strategic healthcare objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030 and make the Kingdom a pioneer in medical and health-based research. In addition, it aims to address the challenges that hinder the development of effective and high-quality research and cultivate an environment that enables research excellence through bridging gaps, enhancing coordination, integration, research capacity, and improving the impact of the research and innovation system in the health sector. One of the ways that the Saudi NIH works to fulfill its aim is by creating funding opportunities such as the one announced here.

The objective of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support graduate students throughout their research training and empower them with world-class knowledge and expertise in health research; as well as build human capital through training across scientific health research in epidemiological, preclinical, clinical, and translational research. The goal behind this grant is to provide a high-quality training experience and to secure long-term career placement for students.

Graduate students conducting health research within specific universities and health Colleges, whether starting a new or ongoing project, are eligible to benefit from this grant. Awardees will be selected based on eligibility, merit, and competitiveness, which will be assessed through a review process of the submitted applications.

The award amount allocated for this FOA will be distributed among awardees based on the decision of Saudi NIH. Saudi NIH is not obligated to fund any particular application or make a specific number of awards. Applicants should clearly justify the requested budget in their proposal. Eligible students can submit their research proposal within March 19, 2023, till May 04, 2023.

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Background
The Saudi National Institute of Health

A vibrant society, a thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. These are the pillars of the Saudi Vision 2030, which is the foundation upon which the Saudi Health Sector Transformation Plan is built, and the Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) is established. Saudi NIH will help to achieve the strategic healthcare objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030 and make the Kingdom a pioneer in medical and health-based research. In addition, it aims to address the challenges that hinder the development of effective and high-quality research and cultivate an environment that enables research excellence through bridging gaps, enhancing coordination, integration, research capacity, and improving the impact of the research and innovation system in the health sector.

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Saudi NIH established the Graduate Students Research Grant in Health Colleges (Pilot Grant) to support graduate students throughout their research training and empower them with world-class knowledge and expertise across scientific health research, and build human capital through training in epidemiological, and clinical studies. The goal behind this grant is to provide a high-quality training experience and to secure long-term career placement for students. This grant works by providing financial support to Saudi graduate students throughout their funded research projects, as well as technical assistance for the implementation of their desired research project.

Opportunity Description
Scope

Supporting graduate students throughout their research training with the objective of equipping them to conduct epidemiological studies, preclinical, clinical, and translational research.

Objectives
- Building human capital through training across scientific health research, technical and other areas of health research priority.
- Developing talents in order to strengthen the Kingdom's position as a global leader in science, technology, and innovation.
- Ensuring harmony among students in universities, government, and private agencies by implementing a joint research program.
- Adding to the national wealth of health research and serving the Health Sector Transformation Program under Vision 2030.

Mapping to the Saudi NIH Strategic goals
- Enhance skills: Provide the opportunity for students to sharpen their health research skills through guided research application.
- Empower careers: Support students in their journeys to develop into experienced, independent researchers.

- Cultivate leaders: Enable upcoming researchers to become leaders in health research by providing high-quality mentorship and guidance.

Indicators of Success
- Knowledge and skill retention illustrated in research papers, patents, products, policies, guidelines, and regulations.
- Training completion marked by a final report indicating the conclusions of the research project, the goals achieved, and the implications of the findings.
- Training certificates.
- Scientific awards and acknowledgements.
- National and international collaborations and partnerships.
- Increased national human capital and capacity in scientific health research.

Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements

Each type of Saudi NIH funding program has its own set of eligibility requirements. While the graduate student (applicant) conceives and authors the application, Saudi NIH recognizes the applicant's institution as the grantee in the context of this funding opportunity, Saudi NIH recognizes the applicant's institution as the grantee.

Eligible Applicants

Saudi graduate students conducting health research are eligible to benefit from this grant. Each application must be led by a supervisor with a qualified degree and is affiliated within the same institute, in addition to fulfilling the conditions listed below:

- The applicant obtains the approval of all participating researchers, if any, to perform their tasks, as well as the performance index of each co-researcher for follow-up and evaluation.

- The applicant obtains the approval of the Scientific Research Ethics Committees from their institute after receiving the initial approval of the grant.

- The applicant obtains the approvals of the entity or entities to carry out the research within its facilities.

- The applicant provides measurable research performance indicators, based on the proposed research project objectives and outputs.

- Presence of any related evidence determined by Saudi NIH.

For applicants intending to conduct a clinical trial, specific eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicants for research training are not permitted to apply as the Principal Investigator (PI) of a clinical trial. They are, however, permitted to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a sponsor or co-sponsor.

- Applicants proposing to gain mentored training in a clinical trial are required to provide details of their contribution to the study through specific forms.

- The overall responsibility of the trial falls on the mentor or individual receiving support.

- Additional scored review criteria include: Sponsor(s), Collaborator(s), Consultant(s), and Research Training Plan.

Funding Allocation

Awardees will receive the funding amount according to their signed contract. The funding amount will be transferred directly to the awardee account based on the instalments in their contract (minimum of three instalments). Saudi NIH has the right to determine the allocation of funding based on its list of policies and regulations.

Allowable Costs

The maximum allowed budget for this grant is SAR 20,000. Reasonable expenses related to knowledge translation, networking, commercialization, and community-based research are considered eligible costs in the context of this funding opportunity.

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Saudi NIH review process.

Stage	Description
Prescreening	- The Research Office (RO) will begin prescreening applications as soon as they are submitted. - Applications are screened for non-eligibility, plagiarism, completion, and violation of the Saudi NIH policy. - Applications are deemed ineligible at this stage if the applicant does not hold a medical degree. - If the applicant intends to be a trainee in a clinical trial, the Ethics and Compliance Department and Clinical Trials Department at Saudi NIH check the application for required documents specific to clinical trials (see Related Required Forms and Documents).
Technical Review	- The RO will conduct a technical review of the application that passed the prescreening stage. - Applications will be reviewed to ascertain that all the requirements have been fulfilled.
Scientific Review	A review panel composed of internal and external reviewers assesses and scores the applications based on their scientific merit.
Ethical Review	- Saudi NIH has the right to visit the awarded institutions' research sites for the purpose of conducting periodical and final evaluations by the assigned reviewers or committees from Saudi NIH. - The Ethics and Compliance Department at Saudi NIH reviews all the documents and approvals, including the IRB, to ensure they are aligned with the National Committee of Bioethics depending on the proposed clinical trial phase (if any).

Financial Review	• The budget plan for the application is evaluated by the Finance Department at Saudi NIH. • The Finance Department has the right to accept or reject or negotiate with the applicants through the RO. • The evaluation involves ensuring that compensation is aligned with the ethics policy.
Pre-approval	• The final verdict from reviewers is determined and the application can move to receive the final approval.
Final Approval	• The final approval is held by at least five reviewing members with the presence of the Board Chair to discuss the scored research proposals received from the RO. • The final approval is made by the Executive Director of Saudi NIH.
Awardee Announcement	• Saudi NIH communicates with the awardee(s) to inform them that they have been selected to receive the award.
Contracting	• After receiving the final approval, the awardee signs the necessary contracts to receive the award. • After contracting, the awardee begins receiving the award based on the award installments plan.
Reporting and Monitoring	• After an applicant is informed that their application is selected for the award, they are required to agree to undergo monitoring by Saudi NIH for the duration of the research project. • Systems will be in place for monitoring human subject recruiting & information. • Saudi NIH has the right to conduct periodical visits to the awarded institutions' research sites for the purpose of conducting evaluations. • A final technical report will be required at the end of the research project. Saudi NIH will provide the awarded applicant with a deadline specifying the date for submitting the final report.
Award Close-out	• The RO ends the award period ensuring that agreed-upon milestones have been reached. • The awardee must present all the necessary documentation for the scientific review committee and the Ethics and Compliance Department to issue approvals for award close-out. • The results of the research project are subject to public disclosure of results policy and publications policy.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The integrity of the work.
- Significance of the problem.
- Approach to resolve the problem.

- The soundness of the rationale.
- The realistic estimation of outcomes.
- Risk management criteria.
- Alignment with the Saudi NIH strategy and the National Vision 2030.

Expected Research Outcomes (KPIs)
- Research papers.
- Patents.
- Products.
- Policies, guidelines, and recommendations.
- Training certificates.
- Scientific awards and acknowledgments.
- Students completing the degree program.

Reporting and Monitoring

After applicants are informed that their application has been selected for the award, they will be required to agree to undergo monitoring by Saudi NIH for the duration of their research project. The process of monitoring involves periodic site visits and the completion of a final technical report submitted by the awardees.

The final technical report will be required at the end of the project. Saudi NIH will provide the awarded individual(s) with a final report template and timetable specifying the date for submitting the final technical report.

Other Information

How to Apply

The application process for Saudi NIH funding opportunities is entirely paperless. Applicants need to fill out the electronic application form along with any other required forms and documents (see Related Required Forms and Documents). Saudi NIH will only accept applications submitted through its website. To apply for this funding opportunity, click the following link to the online application form and associated guidelines: Graduate Students Research Grant in Health Colleges (Pilot Grant) . Please take an advantage of the submission manual tool provided to you here to guide you through the registration and submission processes.

Extension of the Project Execution Period

If the completion of the project requires an additional period than the originally agreed on period without any additional financial obligations, the awarded students must submit an extension request 40 working days before the end of the project along with a list of required documents that are listed in the Saudi NIH Health Research Grants Regulations Guide.

The extension period will be subject to the same technical and financial rules regulating work during the original project period. An extension may be for a maximum period of one-third of the original term of the project period.

Data Sharing

Data and products generated through the awarded project are subject to intellectual property and data sharing conditions and policies as determined by Saudi NIH. Applicants may be required to provide the approval of the Scientific Research Ethics Committees from their institute after receiving the initial approval of the grant.

Confidentiality

All information submitted by applicants to any funding opportunity by Saudi NIH is confidential. All application reviewers must follow the confidentiality of review guidelines as outlined by Saudi NIH.

Related Required Forms and Documents

The templates related to this specific FOA are listed below:

Form Name	Status
Program graduate acceptance letter	Required
Mentor CV	Required
Project proposal	Required
Student CV	Required
Mentor recommendation letter	Upon Request
Ethical approval	Upon Request
Any additional support documents	Upon Request

This funding opportunity allows for applicants proposing to train within clinical trials. For applications proposing training within clinical trials, clinical trial-specific documents will be required as attachments to the application. In addition, a different set of documents will be required to be submitted after approval at the prescreening stage. For applicants proposing training within clinical trials, the following sections are highly pertinent:

Clinical trial-related documents required after passing the prescreening stage:

Please note that these requirements may differ based on the nature of the proposed clinical trial. Upon passing the prescreening stage, Saudi NIH will communicate with the applicant to specify the required documents based on their application. Generally speaking, applicants will most likely be required to submit the following documents after passing the prescreening stage:

- Saudi Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) approval.
- Informed Consent Form.

- Case Report Form.
- Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB).
- Good Clinical Practice Certification of each research team member.
- Clinical Trial Application.

For clinical trials in multiple sites, IRB and SFDA approvals may be requested for each site.

<p style="text-align:center;color:red;">End of Funding Opportunity Announcement</p>