



Saudi Basic Science Initiative

Project-level Funding

Research Consortium Grant (RCG)

Call For Proposal

Stable and Sustainable R&D Funding

Saudi Basic Science (SBS) Initiative for Project-level Funding

Research Consortium Grant (RCG)

About Saudi Basic Science Initiative

The Saudi Basic Science (SBS) is a multi-track Initiative of the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) to support basic and fundamental science research activities in Saudi Arabia (KSA). Designed with the broader goal of creating economic, societal, and environmental impact, the initiative seeks to contribute to the development of the research ecosystem continuum. This initiative aims to foster scientific excellence and promote innovation in basic scientific research, ultimately leading to significant breakthroughs and advancements across the four areas of the national research and innovation priorities. The funding provided through the initiative targets efforts that will expand the pool of national talented researchers, stimulate their participation in areas that will lead to breakthroughs in targeted fields, and enable them to pursue their scientific activities and ideas at the early stages of discovery at the Technology Readiness Level (TRL).

Grant Goals and Objectives

Research Consortium Grant (RCG) is dedicated on promoting joint research efforts among partners, and it is a consortium-based collaboration between multi-institutions to exchange innovative ideas with interdisciplinary expertise where they collaborate to address national and global challenges, leveraging combined efforts for effective problem-solving. As one of the competitive funding tracks under the SBS initiative, **the grant provides funds ranging up to SAR 10,000,000 for a duration of 5 years**. RCG requires a minimum of three separate institutions, whether they are local or international, to submit applications jointly. Moreover, it is necessary for at least one of these institutions to be situated in KSA.

By fostering collaborative efforts, research and development activities will be propelled, leading to scientific excellence and innovation in fundamental scientific research. This will result in breakthroughs and advancements across diverse disciplines. The research outcomes through successful collaborative endeavors are expected to contribute significantly in addressing one or more of the four areas of national RDI priorities. In summary, the grant will:

- **Fostering Collaboration:** Unite diverse researchers to exchange innovative ideas through interdisciplinary intelligence
- **Tackling National and Global Challenges:** Enable diverse experts to collaboratively address national challenges, leveraging combined expertise for effective problem-solving
- **Amplifying Collective Impact:** Amplify and drive transformative results through collaborative efforts and harnessing collective strengths
- **Accelerating Research and Innovation:** Accelerate research, innovation, and practical applications through information exchange, interdisciplinary synergy, and shared resources
- **Optimizing Resources:** Optimize resource allocation, maximizing efficiency and minimizing duplication for impactful research outcomes
- **Advocating for Research Priorities:** Promote for research priorities, shaping agendas and securing resources to address critical issues
- **Facilitating Knowledge Exchange:** Foster knowledge sharing, enhancing research quality through idea exchange, diverse perspectives, and collaboration
- **Building Robust Networks:** Build strong networks, fostering collaborations, expanding research opportunities, and enhancing collective capacity

Core activities in the TRL: Discovery stage TRL 1–3 (for TRL definitions, refer to the grant guidelines document)

Eligible Application

All submitted applications should meet the following criteria:

1. Joint applications from at least three different institutions (mix of non-profit and for-profit institutions)
2. The application must clearly assign a Primary Principle Investigator and Secondary Principle Investigators
3. The Primary PI must be affiliated with a Saudi-based institution
4. Applicants must have doctoral degrees with strong research records in their respective fields
5. Applicants must be affiliated with an institution, such as a university, a research center, a ministry, a corporation, or a company
6. Applicants should be able to understand and distinguish between the different stages of the TRL

Research Topics

RCG will consider proposals in selected topics in the four national research priorities and aspirations. These topics have been identified to help guide research, development, and innovation efforts across the Kingdom to address national needs and challenges. The topics are as follows:

- 1) Health and Wellness
 - **Developing genetic therapies for KSA's top rare diseases.**
 - **Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases in Saudi Arabia.**
- 2) Sustainability and Essential Needs
 - **Sustainable Water Management.**
 - **Achieving Net-zero Emissions.**
- 3) Energy and Industrials
 - **Technologies for High Conversion of Crude Oil to Chemicals.**
 - **Technologies for Clean Hydrogen Production.**
- 4) Economies of the Future
 - **Enabling Cognitive Cities: Advancing Beyond Smart Cities.**
 - **Building Future of Connectivity: Sustainable 6G Technologies.**

Terms and Conditions

1. This grant is subject to the RDIA's policies and national regulations for research grants that govern all award personnel and activities.
2. All applicants should comply with the grant's guidelines.
3. Proposals must not duplicate or have significant overlap with existing grants.
4. Applicants must provide information on their CVs about ongoing grants and grants awarded after receiving a doctoral degree, if any.
5. The final grant amount may differ from the requested amount based on review recommendations and availability of funds.
6. All applicant institutions must have a science and technology unit (STU)¹ or an authorized representative to manage the grant cycle.

¹ The STU is an independent unit that supervises the plans and follow-up of strategic programs and projects related to scientific and technical activities at the institution.

Important Dates

Grant Announcement	30-Aug-2023
Deadline to Submit the Proposal	30-Sep-2023
To submit your application, please visit the link: https://rdia.gov.sa/grants	

For additional details on the grant, regulations, and policies, please refer to the grant guidelines.
For the proposal template, kindly refer to the template document.

Contact Information

For application enquiries, such as eligibility queries, budget preparation questions, or technical issues with the portal, please contact:
GRANTS-INFO@rdia.gov.sa