



RESEARCH GRANTS REGULATION

FUNDED BY

THE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
AND INNOVATION AUTHORITY

1445 AH – 2023 AD

Table of Contents

03	Introduction
04	Article 1: Terms and Definitions
05	Article 2: General Objective of the regulation
05	Article 3: Beneficiaries
06	Article 4: Submission of Research Proposals
06	Article 5: Merging Research Proposals
07	Article 6: Contracting Mechanism
07	Article 7: Research Team
08	Article 8: Roles of the Research Team
10	Article 9: Responsibilities for Implementing Research Activities Outside the Kingdom
10	Article 10: Intellectual Property Rights
11	Article 11: Budgetary Items
12	Article 12: Financial and Technical Responsibility
12	Article 13: Mechanism for Managing Support Funds
13	Article 14: Rewards
13	Article 15: General Provisions

Introduction

The Research Development and Innovation Authority is committed to fostering and promoting the growth of the research, development, and innovation sector. Our overarching goal is to strengthen the integration of technology within the realms of research, development, and innovation, facilitating their seamless transition. This commitment enhances the development of local content, contributing significantly to the realization of a rapidly evolving economy grounded in knowledge and creativity. Additionally, the Authority aspires to elevate the productivity of the local economy and bolster its global competitiveness.

Subject to Articles (3) and (4) of the regulatory procedures approved by Cabinet Resolution No. (508) on 23/07/1444 AH, the Authority is entrusted with the task of extending both financial and technical support essential for the realization of research grants. This support is envisioned to address a spectrum of national development objectives across various domains in accordance with the overarching vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In alignment with the commitment to governance and efficiency, the "Research Grants Regulation Funded by the Research Development and Innovation Authority" has been meticulously crafted. This regulation aims to provide a comprehensive framework for governing grants within funded research initiatives and programs supervised by the Authority. All grant beneficiaries are required to fully understand and comply with this regulation, ensuring the realization of the most optimal outcomes.

This regulation encompasses essential guidelines for the scope of research grants, managing the stages preceding application, execution, closure, and subsequent phases. It includes the outcomes of research grants, with a focal aim of amplifying their impact and benefits through collaborative efforts of research entities and teams. The overarching objective of this regulation is to ensure the judicious management and execution of research projects in alignment with the vision of the Authority. This Regulation strives to uphold the quality of work during execution to realize the targeted objectives of each program.

This regulation was adopted through Decision No. 230301 during the second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Authority for the year 2023, held on Monday, 19/02/1445 AH corresponding to 04/09/2023 AD.

Article 1: Terms and Definitions

In this regulation, the following terms and expressions, wherever they appear, shall have the meanings ascribed to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

Regulation: This document - "Research Grants Regulation Funded by the Research Development and Innovation Authority".

Authority: The Research Development and Innovation Authority.

Entity: Any organization engaged in research, development, and innovation activities, marketing its outputs, whether from the public, private, or non-profit sector, including research bodies and similar entities.

Authorized Representative: The individual duly authorized by the entity to sign research grant contracts provided by the Authority, and to supervise their execution as well.

Grant Platform: The electronic platform dedicated to the management and supervision of research grants awarded by the Authority.

Research Proposal: The scientific submission in response to a Call for Proposals from the Authority, detailing the objectives, methodology, anticipated outcomes, significance, expected impact, qualified human resources, work methods, implementation timeline, required resources, and financial costs for the proposed support. It also outlines the expected results, and a mechanism outlining how to leverage the results and outputs of the research project, along with the entities benefiting therefrom.

Research Grant: A research project award approved by the Authority with the financial funding allocated for execution.

Research Project: A project designed and built upon scientific principles, for execution by a specialized research team with a concrete plan aimed at achieving a defined scientific outcome aligned to the Call for Proposal aims.

Agreement: A legally binding document regulating the relationship between the Authority and the entity to be funded to conduct a research project.

Contract: A legally document signed by the Authority or the entity with the beneficiary.

Joint Funding: The cooperative funding conducted between the Authority and one or more entities to provide research grants from the public, private, or non-profit sectors in order to reach the common objectives.

Researchers' Endorsement: The legally binding document signed by the research team, before initiating work, outlining the names of the research team, their respective roles and their signature on the acknowledgment of the responsibility for implementing the research, provided that such document shall be approved by the entity.

Grant Budget: The document approved by the funding body, delineating the financial support details necessary for the implementation of the research grant in accordance with the approved action plan.

Human Resources: All accredited individuals involved in the research grant, including the research team, assistants, and consultants.

Research Team: A group of specialized researchers within the field of the research grant, entrusted with its execution, as confirmed in the researchers' endorsement.

Individuals: Scientifically and technically qualified persons directly associated with the research grant topic, without specific affiliations to any particular entity or organization.

Scientific Peer Review: The process of assessing the quality, authenticity, and implementation of research grant proposals or periodic and final technical performance reports for supported grants, adhering to specific scientific criteria. This evaluation is conducted by a panel of referees characterized by expertise, neutrality, and scientific integrity, that is relevant and related to the proposed research. Their selection mechanism shall be determined by the Authority.

Evaluator: An individual with academic qualifications entrusted with the scientific evaluation of research proposals, measuring their worthiness for support. They are also responsible for assessing the technical reports of the grant to determine the degree to which it attains the approved objectives within the designated timeline. Taking into account that compensation for these services shall be determined by a specified monetary figure detailed in the evaluation request form, varying according to the program type and considerations by the Authority, with an emphasis on maintaining quality and expeditious completion.

Technical Report: A written document submitted by the principal researcher detailing the progress of the research in achieving its goals as outlined in the approved timeline and methodology. These reports are categorized into annual and final technical reports.

Financial Report: A comprehensive document covering financial items, expenditures, and receipts submitted by the principal researcher to document grant-related expenses in alignment with the approved budget. These reports shall be classified into annual and final financial reports.

Training: The scientific activities designed to elevate the performance of a research team member or assistant, allowing them to benefit from acquired knowledge and skills for the improvement of research endeavors.

Administrative and Technical Follow-up Costs: A budgetary allocation within the research grant budget designated to the entity as remuneration for administrative and technical follow-up activities related to the execution of research grants funded by the Authority. This includes the assessment of all reports and scientific events associated with research grants.

Remaining Balances: The monetary amounts that remain within the budget of one or more years of the research grant before the final year and/or the overall research budget after the financial settlement of the research.

Intellectual Property Rights: The safeguarding of human thought and creativity, including copyright, neighboring rights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, plant varieties, and circuit layout designs.

Article 2: General Objective of the Regulation

This regulation aspires to structure the governance and procedures pertaining to the endorsement and administration of research grants funded by the Authority. Its objectives include the following:

1. Formulating a comprehensive framework for research grants, enlisted within the programs and executive guidelines of the Authority.
2. Defining the responsibilities and commitments of entities, researchers, and individuals involved in research grants funded within the purview of the Authority's programs.
3. Ensuring the meticulous and effective execution of research grants while upholding a transparent utilization of funds in alignment with predetermined objectives.

Article 3: Beneficiaries

This Article outlines the beneficiary categories of grant programs determined in accordance with the nature and objectives of each program. These categories include the following:

Individuals, including:

- Faculty members, researchers, specialists, and physicians in universities, colleges, institutes, government, and private hospitals, as well as national research centers and laboratories in the Kingdom.
- Graduates and undergraduates in Saudi universities and colleges, including students in general education within the Kingdom.
- Entrepreneurs.
- Individuals resident in KSA who are not affiliated with any specific entity.

Entities, including:

- Governmental bodies.
- Private sector organizations.
- Non-profit sectors.

Article 4: Submission of Research Proposals

Research proposals shall be submitted within the specified deadlines announced for each program through the designated platform. Beneficiaries shall adhere to the following instructions during the submission process:

1. The submitted research proposal shall not replicate a previously funded topic, either by the Authority or any other entity.
2. The proposed research topic shall fall within the scope of the grant programs funded by the Authority.
3. The research proposal was not previously submitted to the Authority, or rejected one or more times without incorporating any technical or financial adjustments based on the provided feedback.
4. No outstanding technical or financial obligations shall exist for any member of the research team from previous research projects supported by the Authority or affiliated entities.
5. The submitted research proposal shall not have been previously approved for support and subsequently canceled by the Authority due to regulatory reasons.
6. The submitted research proposal shall not be entirely or partially derived (including data or established results) from other research or publications, unless this is explicitly agreed upon by the entity to continue relevant research phases.
7. The scientific integrity of the submitted research proposals is assessed by the Authority using approved programs, following guidelines issued by the Authority.
8. Full disclosure of all supporters of the research proposal, along with the amount of support and associated conditions from other entities, is mandatory.
9. The submitted research proposal shall not be presented to another entity after submission to the Authority during the submission period and the subsequent scientific research evaluation phase, unless with prior written approval from the Authority and only under circumstances such as insufficient grant amount, research expansion, extension, or other cases determined solely by the Authority.
10. Adherence to the scientific integrity controls issued by the Authority and the intellectual property law applicable in the Kingdom.
11. Adherence to ethical research standards concerning living organisms, in accordance with their executive regulations and other relevant legislation.
12. Submission of an intellectual property plan and a mechanism for distributing any expected returns resulting from research outputs.
13. Compliance with amendments provided by the Authority before the researchers' acknowledgment of commencement is signed.
14. All research grant applications, technical and financial reports for supported research grants, their financial and technical follow-up, monitoring of their outputs, and archiving of all project documents shall be submitted through the Grant Platform or any other means deemed suitable by the Authority.

Article 5: Merging Research Proposals

The Authority, upon obtaining the consent of all involved parties submitting proposals, reserves the right to merge the similar proposals from one or more entities into a singular research grant. This action is undertaken in accordance with the established criteria for grant programs issued by the Authority, ensuring the safeguarding of intellectual property rights for all participating parties involved in the proposals.

Article 6: Contracting Mechanism

1. The Authority and the research entity shall implement the grant programs in alignment with the regulations through the signing of an agreement. The entity pledges to complete coordination with the Authority, and the agreement includes a list of supported grants. Additionally, it outlines the obligations of the entity and the research team, governing the execution, management, and closure of the grant.
2. A direct project implementation contract shall be signed between the entity and the principal researcher in accordance with a model provided by the Authority.
3. The Authority is entitled to sign a project implementation contract directly with the lead researcher in special cases, such as:
 - Entrepreneurs.
 - Independent researchers not affiliated with any entity.
 - Research specific to researchers affiliated with entities, provided that a prior approval from the researcher's reference entity shall be obtained.
4. The Authority is entitled to oversee research grants funded entirely or partially by one or more administrative, technical, and financial entities as per the agreement between the Authority and the entity. The Authority has the right to delegate the administrative, technical and financial follow-up to any party it deems appropriate.
5. The lead researcher has the right to seek collaboration with individuals or entities for tasks related to the research project, adhering to the internal regulations of the involved entity. The following considerations shall be observed:
 - A. The contractual agreement shall align with the approved work plan and budget of the grant, ensuring that the contract duration does not exceed the specified project timeline. The contracted tasks shall be documented in detail.
 - B. The lead researcher is responsible for submitting contract requests for the project either to the entity or directly to the Authority, following the endorsement of the authorized representative within the entity. This process shall take into account the Kingdom's human resources regulations, with notifications conveyed to the Authority through the platform or any other suitable means as determined by the Authority.
 - C. The signing of the contract between the entity and the contractor, specifying the commencement date, shall be followed by notifying the Authority with a copy of the contract.
 - D. There shall be no familial relationships up to the third degree between any member of the research team and the contractor, except after submitting a disclosure form accompanied with reasonable justifications.

Article 7: Research Team

1. Incorporate a cadre of national talents from postgraduate students or their equivalent to contribute as collaborators or assistants within the research team.
2. Ensure the absence of conflicts of interest among the members of the research team and any other involved parties in the grant.
3. The researcher holds the right to engage in multiple research grants within grant programs, subject to the following conditions:
 - A. The researcher shall not assume the role of principal researcher in more than three research projects.
 - B. The cumulative number of research projects in which the researcher participates shall not exceed five projects.
 - C. The aggregate compensation received from research projects in which the researcher participates shall not surpass the remuneration for three projects within a single month.
 - D. Supervising postgraduate students shall be excluded from the number of participations.

Article 8: Roles of the Research Team

1. Principal Researcher:

Shall be an individual qualified with both scientific and technical expertise closely aligned with the subject of the research grant. Shall bear the responsibility for executing and overseeing the grant, as outlined in the contract, with the additional obligation of concluding the project and delivering its outcomes. The following criteria shall be met:

- A. Holding a Ph.D. or an equivalent qualification or is an officially recognized researcher within the submitting entity, excluding programs intended for students, entrepreneurs, and individuals.
- B. Assuming scientific, technical, and financial responsibility for the project. In the absence of a designated project manager, they also handle administrative responsibilities.

2. Co-Principal Researcher:

Shall be an individual qualified in both scientific and technical aspects, specializing in the subject of the research grant. This person serves as a deputy for the principal researcher in case of their absence or withdrawal and carries out tasks as an associate researcher. The following criteria shall be met:

- A. Holding a Ph.D. or an equivalent qualification or is an officially recognized researcher from a local entity, excluding programs intended for students, entrepreneurs, and individuals.
- B. Assuming scientific and technical responsibility for the project. In the absence of the principal researcher, they also handle administrative duties.

3. Project Manager:

A qualified individual or one with extensive experience in project management, contributing to the achievement of the research grant's objectives within the approved timeline. The following criteria shall be met:

- A. Shall be affiliated with the entity submitting the project.
- B. Holds an accredited professional project management certificate or an equivalent training certificate in a recognized professional project management methodology. Alternatively, they possess sufficient practical and scientific experience in managing research projects.
- C. Undertakes the following responsibilities:
 - Manages the project according to established technical project management principles.
 - Monitors the tasks of research team members and coordinates their efforts to ensure timely completion of project stages.
 - Prepares regular financial reports for the project and submits them to the principal researcher.
 - Coordinates with the entity to procure project requirements, such as materials and devices.
 - Manages non-research staff in the project, including assistants, technicians, administrators, and contractors.

4. Associate Researcher:

A scientifically and technically qualified individual participating in the research team, responsible for the assigned portion of the research grant as specified in the Researchers' Endorsement. The following criteria shall be met:

- A. The researcher shall be an officially recognized researcher in the entity submitting the project or another entity within the Kingdom, contingent upon obtaining approval from the original entity for the role of associate researcher.
- B. The research project shall be directly related to their area of specialization.
- C. The researcher shall assume responsibility for the specific technical tasks assigned by the principal researcher according to the work plan.

External Researcher:

A distinguished researcher from outside the Kingdom may be enlisted to contribute specific expertise within the project subject to the following principles:

- A. Approval from the researcher's original entity is required for their involvement in the research.
- B. The researcher shall possess a unique specialization not readily available within the Kingdom, covering all aspects of the research.
- C. The number of external researchers shall not exceed (2) for a single research project or constitute more than 25% of the total research team. Exceptions may be granted by the Authority based on the program guidelines.
- D. The assigned tasks for the external researcher(s) shall involve the transfer of new technology to the Kingdom.
- E. Commitment to undertake at least 30% of the designated tasks within the project-executing entity.
- F. The proportion of tasks delegated to the external researcher shall not exceed 20% of the total workload in accordance with any adjustments made subject to approval from the Authority.
- G. The external researcher shall be affiliated with a renowned university or research center, recognized internationally through reputable rankings.
- H. The external researcher shall have a track record of publishing a minimum of three scientific articles in journals with a very high impact, as per the global (Clarivate JCR) ranking, or possess a patent, or has been the recipient of a distinguished international scientific award.
- I. The researcher is not allowed to engage in more than one ongoing research project simultaneously, unless otherwise specified in the guidelines and evidence of the advertised programs.

Assistants:

Shall be entrusted with executive tasks in the research project, such as conducting experiments, analyses, and other duties, including:

A. Research Assistant: A technically and scientifically qualified person assigned supportive tasks for the research team.

B. Postdoctoral Researcher: A person holding a Ph.D. in the project-related field and not bound by an employment contract.

C. Graduate Students: Enrolled master's or doctoral students, or their equivalents, directly related to the research project. Graduate students can participate and be assigned specific tasks according to the guidelines of the principal researcher and the work plan, provided that they shall adhere to the following:

- The student shall be enrolled in a Saudi university or college.
- The student's specialization shall be directly relevant to the project.

D. Undergraduate Students: (Bachelor's degree or its equivalent - general education) whose studies and specializations are directly related to the research project. An undergraduate student may be added to the research team and assigned specific tasks by the principal researcher according to the work plan. General education students (high school, technical, middle, elementary) can participate in initiatives and projects that align with their scientific and practical capabilities.

E. Technicians: Persons with the necessary technical and technological qualifications and experience to accomplish required tasks.

F. Administrators: Qualified persons to perform the required administrative tasks.

G. Professionals: Skilled persons who are essential professionals to facilitate professional work.

H. Craftsmen: Skilled persons who are essential craftsmen to facilitate craftwork.

Advisors:

They are individuals with academic qualifications and extensive experience, entrusted with providing profound scientific insights and consultative contributions directly aligned with the specific domain of the research project.

Advisors, whether from within or outside the Kingdom, can be incorporated if there is a deficiency in expertise within the research team, provided it adheres to the allocated budget. This inclusion shall consider the following criteria:

- A. The advisor shall possess exceptional scientific and practical experience, rendering them suitable for active involvement in the research project.
- B. The number of advisors shall not exceed two for each grant per year, or as specified in the guidelines of the announced program.
- C. Submission of a comprehensive curriculum vitae alongside a detailed research proposal, accompanied by a formal letter indicating the advisor's willingness to contribute to the project.
- D. Preference will be given to advisors located within the Kingdom.
- E. Consultation can either be conducted in person or remotely.
- F. Procurement of an official letter of approval from the advisor's affiliated entity, endorsing their commitment to the research project.

The Authority has the right to grant exceptions to some or all of the stipulated requirements based on its judgment of appropriateness.

Article 9: Responsibilities for Implementing Research Activities Outside the Kingdom

1. In the event that the research requires activities outside the Kingdom, the research team bears the responsibility for any research-related endeavors conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country. The Authority holds no liability in this respect. It is the responsibility of the research team to coordinate all necessary matters with relevant governmental entities, obtain required licenses and approvals in that country.
2. The entity has the right to request a copy of the licenses or approvals necessary for executing external research activities within the project framework, with proper documentation.
3. External research activities shall not exceed 20% of the total research activity, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Authority in the guidelines for grant programs.
4. The Authority shall be informed in writing before granting intellectual property rights to the external partner.
5. Assigning an external party outside the Kingdom to prepare outputs, write scientific papers, or draft books is not allowed, except for linguistic revision, except when a non-disclosure agreement is signed with the external party.
6. Both the entity and the research team are responsible for sharing data, information, or materials of a confidential or sensitive nature with external research entities.

Article 10: Intellectual Property Rights

1. If the research grant results in publications or computer programs, the research team members will be given priority in disseminating them, provided that they shall adhere to the terms outlined in the signed contract. In the event that such information or programs contain sensitive or confidential data, the Authority retains the right to keep them, and the principal researcher is required to collaborate with the Authority to incorporate this information into the grant's technical reports.
2. The entity shall be granted an agreed-upon timeframe to submit reviews or additions to the information or programs in case corrections, clarifications, or necessary modifications as needed.

3. The entity shall provide opportunities for individuals interested in utilizing the information and programs produced from research supported by the Authority. However, the financial costs associated with this usage will be the responsibility of the individuals seeking to benefit.
4. In case of any disputes regarding the publication or use of the information or programs resulting from supported research, the entity is responsible for resolving the conflict by referring to the relevant regulations in the Kingdom. If the entity is unable to resolve the dispute, either party can refer it to the competent authority for consideration.
5. The entity is required not to disclose any information to any person, company, or entity not mentioned in the approved proposal, without prior written approval from the Authority, whether during the research process or after its completion.
6. The entity shall provide the Authority with all information related to any patentable idea or invention developed within the framework of research supported by the Authority, in periodic or final reports, within one year of the research's completion.
7. The entity has the right to coordinate necessary arrangements with the Authority for registering or depositing intellectual property rights owned by the Authority in collaboration with the entity. The entity bears the costs either from the research project budget or from the entity's grant management allocations, unless otherwise agreed upon in the grant agreement.
8. The Authority shall provide the necessary support for transferring high-value outputs for investment and marketing, based on reports on high-value outputs or consultancy studies conducted by the Authority, relying on research results.
9. The entity shall ensure the identification and protection of any intellectual property resulting from research supported by the Authority to fairly and justly distribute profits generated from marketing intellectual property. For this purpose, the Authority shall impose on the entity the obligation to allocate no less than 33% of the net income to the inventors as encouragement and compensation for their contributions to the research.

Article 11: Budgetary Items

1. The maximum budget for the research grant varies according to the type of grant and the specific objectives of the programs, as determined within the guidelines associated therewith.
2. The budget is distributed and allocated by the Authority based on its estimation of the following items: human resources, equipment, materials, conferences, trips, training, consultants, scientific publications, administrative and financial monitoring requirements, and the evaluation of various reports in the entity, unless there are updates in the guidelines for grant programs.
3. The project's budget shall not exceed the maximum value allocated for each program. The principal researcher may choose to allocate the project's budget to one or more items, provided that the maximum limit for each item is not exceeded in accordance with the justifications provided as necessary. The maximum limits for each budget item are as follows:
 - Human Resources: 40%
 - Equipment and Materials: 75%
 - Trips and Training: 15%
 - Other Items: 15%
3. The principal researcher shall provide justifications if any budget item exceeds the maximum limit.
4. The research grant budget shall include details for various items such as the research team's remuneration, assistants' remuneration, project manager's remuneration, research project supplies (devices, materials, equipment, data), trips, conferences, and training (internal and external), consultations (internal and external), publishing scientific outputs, and the cost of patent deposits (registration fees, examination fees, modification fees, annual financial consideration), as well as fees for monitoring and evaluating reports in all their forms.
5. The Authority reserves the right to modify and interpret the budget items and determine the amounts of rewards and their disbursement method according to the specific guidelines for each program.
6. The research grant budget shall not include taxes, fees, or indirect costs for external research entities collaborating on the research grant, except in cases approved by the Authority.

Article 12: Financial and Technical Responsibility

1. The research team shall bear the technical responsibility for any shortcomings in implementing the research project.
2. The principal researcher is primarily responsible for the technical and financial aspects of research funded directly by the Authority, as well as administrative responsibility in the absence of a project manager.
3. In the absence of the principal researcher, the co-principal researcher shall assume responsibility for the financial and technical aspects, after obtaining prior written approval from the entity and notifying the Authority.
4. The responsibility of the research team ends upon completing the technical and financial aspects of the research, delivering the outputs to the entity, and notifying the Authority, while the research team continues to be responsible for any confidential data related to the grant.
5. The principal researcher has the right, after coordinating with the entity, to make direct purchases of the equipment and materials required for the research project from the grant budget, following the guidelines approved by the Authority.
6. The principal researcher has the right to reallocate budget items once during the grant period, provided that the value of the adjustment does not exceed 20% of the grant budget, with notification to the entity of the adjustment.
7. The principal researcher has the right to make reallocations within the research team's rewards to increase the budget for hiring post-doctoral researchers if the need arises, not exceeding 50%, after the written approval from the research team members is obtained and the justifications of the entity are accepted.
8. The principal researcher has the right to take certain financial actions after obtaining prior approval from the entity, as follows:
 - A. Requesting the transfer of remaining funds from one budget year to the same item in the next budget year.
 - B. Making transfers between approved budget items within the granted authorities in accordance with the delegated powers.
 - C. Securing materials and equipment that are not approved in the research budget, according to the approved budget, not exceeding 20% of the item's value.

Article 13: Mechanism for Managing Support Funds

1. The Authority's approved budget sets the funds allocated for the execution of the research project, serving as the guiding document for all ensuing actions.
2. The allocated amounts for the grant shall be deposited in the entity's account, either as a lump sum or in annual installments, according to the agreement and budget specified by the Authority.
3. In the case of research projects directly supervised by the Authority, disbursements will be made in the form of advances by the Authority after the researchers and the entity meet all financial and technical requirements.
4. In the case of joint funding for programs or research projects, the following will be considered:
 - A contract shall be concluded between the Authority or its authorized representative and the participating entities in the support, outlining the commitments of all parties, with the amounts being deposited into the entity's or the Authority's account.
 - The Authority has the right to accept funding from individuals, companies, and other entities to enhance approved research grant programs, without any restrictions or conditions, except for specifying the program or research area to be supported.
 - Funding shall be used to support research grants in accordance with the regulations and guidelines applicable to grant programs.
 - Funding shall be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.
5. The Authority reserves the right to reject any funding that does not meet the requirements of this regulation or does not align with the objectives of grant programs.
6. The entity shall notify the Authority of any additional research funding on the grant funded by the Authority, ensuring the preservation of intellectual property rights and scientific publication according to the provisions of this regulation.
7. In the case of remaining financial balances from the total grant support, the Authority has the right to reclaim the amount for the Authority's account to support other research or to be spent on development, administrative, and technical support activities for the Authority and the entity.
8. The Authority may agree with the research entity on a different mechanism for managing support amounts as deemed in their mutual interest.

Article 14: Rewards

1. The Authority or the entity shall have the right to:
 - A. Grant the research team reward as outlined for each program, subsequent to the acceptance of the detailed technical and financial report, in accordance with the terms of the signed contract.
 - B. Grant the research team reward for the final year, post the acceptance of the conclusive technical and financial report, duly approved by both the entity and the Authority. This is granted upon the submission of all stipulated scientific outputs for the grant, meeting, at the very least, the minimum scientific production requirements for each program.
 - C. Grant the postgraduate student support program award unto both the student and their supervisor. This follows the submission of the thesis, financial reports, and the delivery of all requisite scientific outputs for the grant—again, ensuring compliance with the approved minimum scientific production for the program.
 - D. Grant the research team reward in its entirety or in part, or in some instances, to withhold it altogether. This is done subsequent to the acceptance of the final technical report and the delivery of the conclusive financial report within the stipulated timeframe, aligning with the predefined criteria in the output weights for each program.
 - E. Approve the continued participation of a member within the research team who may have departed the Kingdom but has diligently fulfilled over 50% of their research duties. This is contingent upon an urgent need for their continued involvement and the unavailability of a suitable alternative within the Kingdom.
 - F. Retrieve any disbursed rewards for the research team in the following circumstances:
 - Discovery of a prior research endeavor bearing similarity to the supported research, substantiated by the scientific acknowledgment of the research team.
 - If a researcher surpasses the maximum allowable participation limit.
 - If any member of the research team accumulates two or more rewards for tasks performed within the same research project and during the same period.
 - The Authority or the entity may, under certain circumstances, withhold a portion or the entirety of the research team's rewards in cases where there are delays in submitting the requisite reports, as per the agreed-upon reporting schedule.
2. The Authority or the entity is entitled to grant a reward for the technical and administrative services rendered by research assistants, including engagements with post-doctoral researchers.

Article 15: General Provisions

1. The Authority reserves the right to modify the articles and clauses of this regulation. The decisions, directives, and supplementary regulations issued by the Authority shall be considered integral components hereof.
2. This regulation is applicable to all research grants falling under the programs and initiatives of research grants provided by the Authority.
3. In case of rejection of the research proposal, the applicant has the right to file a written complaint within a period not exceeding 15 working days from the date of notification of the rejection. A committee will be formed within the Authority, as decided by the governor to examine the complaints. The decision will determine the mechanism and governance of the committee's work. The committee shall include a legal expert, and responses to complaints shall be provided within 30 days from the date of receiving the complaint.
4. This regulation shall be published on the official website of the Authority.

