



# UAEU RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

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## Call for Submission of Proposals

### KEY DEADLINES

Pre-proposal Submission	13:00 Sunday, 20 February 2011
Full Proposal submission	13:00 Sunday, 17 April 2011
Grants Announced	Friday, 17 June 2011

# UAEU RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION PROGRAM

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## I. Introduction

The United Arab Emirates University has adopted a plan to transform the university into an internationally recognized, research-intensive university for the UAE. Action step 8 under Goal 3 of this plan is *Enhancement of research capability in the existing colleges*. The grants in this new program are intended to support research activities of the UAEU faculty that are in alignment with UAE National priorities.

## II. Program Objectives

- Assist UAEU faculty members to develop research programs that are in alignment with UAE priorities.
- Ensure high quality research through a competitive program for funding as evaluated by outside experts provided in cooperation with the UAE National Research Foundation.
- Develop UAEU faculty member's ability to secure outside funding for their research activities.
- Support the research activities associated with the UAEU Ph.D. program
- Enhance the standing of UAEU in the worldwide research community through publication of significant results.
- Assist in the development of interdisciplinary links between UAEU faculty members in various disciplines both on and off campus.

## III. Award Information

Research Grants will be made for a period of 3 years or less. The continuation of a grant from year to year is contingent upon satisfactory progress towards achieving the goals of the grant.

Research Grants can range up to AED 750,000 for three years. Eligible costs include relevant research expenses such as:

- Principal Investigator's (PI's) salary for released time
- Support for postdoctoral fellows
- Support for student researchers
- Costs of collaboration
- Travel
- Equipment
- Materials and consumables

#### IV. Eligibility

1. All full-time UAEU faculty members can submit a Research Grant proposal.
2. A grant proposal may have up to three investigators. One of them must be designated as the Principal Investigator (PI), and the remaining, if any, must be designated as co-Principal Investigators (co-PI's). In addition to the PI and the co-PI's the Research Grant proposal may request to employ students, postdoctoral researchers, consultants who provide specific expertise on a limited portion of the project, lab technicians and programmers.
3. While the number of investigators is limited to three, there is no limit on the other personnel participating in the project.
4. An individual can be the PI on only one proposal and a co-PI on at most one additional grant.

#### V. Application and Proposal Submission Instructions

The Research Grant application process has two stages: a Pre-proposal and a Full Proposal:

##### Stage 1. Pre-proposal

A Pre-proposal must be submitted by **13:00, Sunday, February 20, 2011**. The Pre-proposal must provide the following:

1. Cover Sheet: includes a title, PI's name, department, research domain, and an abstract of 100 words or less (maximum one page).
2. Body: provides a brief (maximum 4 pages) description of proposed work, including all figures and references.
3. CV: includes the PI's scholarly bio-data, and up to 5 relevant publication citations (maximum one page).

The research project description must address the following questions (which should be treated as sub-headings in the Body):

- i. What major research challenge(s) will the project address? Describe the expected outcomes of the research.
- ii. Why is this research challenge significant?
- iii. What work has already been done that is relevant to your research goals? Give a brief survey of prior research with appropriate citations.
- iv. How will the problem(s) be addressed? Describe the proposed approaches and plans to solve the posed problems.
- v. Why is the proposed research likely to succeed? The answer might include any preliminary results obtained by theoretical investigations, experiments, or simulation. The identified flaws in previous approaches might be pointed out.

The Pre-proposal must be submitted electronically, using the submission instructions and forms posted on the following Web site: [www.uaeu.ac.ae/research](http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/research). Click on Research Grant Competition 2011 located on the left side of the page.

A team of experts selected by NRF together with the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies will review the pre-proposals, and will determine which applicants to invite to submit a Full Proposal. The deadline of 13:00, Sunday, 20 February 2011 is absolute; failure to lodge a Pre-proposal by that time and date invalidates a proposal from this competition.

## **Stage 2. Full Proposal**

Full Proposals can be submitted only by those applicants who have been invited to do so as a result of the review of their Pre-Proposals. Full Proposals must be submitted by **13:00, Sunday, 17 April 2011**.

The full proposal consists of the following items:

### **1. Cover Sheet:**

The Research Grant Cover Sheet template is available on the following Web site: [www.uaeu.ac.ae/research](http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/research). Click on Research Grant Competition 2011 located on the left side of the page. It contains fields for the project title, PI and co-PI names and PhD dates, research domain, total requested budget amount, certification information and signatures.

### **2. Project Summary: (max. one page)**

It summarizes research objectives and approaches. Up to 5 key phrases must be listed.

### **3. Project Description: (max. 10 pages)**

This section describes the research goals and the approach proposed to accomplish those goals. The research can be in any discipline or disciplines, e.g., physical sciences, mathematical and information sciences, engineering, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities.

The research project description must address the following questions (which should be treated as sub-headings in this section of the proposal). Note that these are the same questions that were addressed in Pre-proposals, but the larger page limit in Full Proposals allows them to be answered in more detail.

- vi. What major research challenge(s) will the project address? Describe the expected outcomes of the research.
- vii. Why is this research challenge significant?
- viii. What work has already been done that is relevant to your research

- goals? Give a brief survey of prior research with appropriate citations.
- ix. How will the problem(s) be addressed? Describe the proposed approaches and plans to solve the posed problems.
  - x. Why is the proposed research likely to succeed? The answer might include any preliminary results obtained by theoretical investigations, experiments, or simulation. The identified flaws in previous approaches might be pointed out.

**4. References Cited** (no page limit, but keep the list reasonable)

**5. Biographical Data:** (max. 3 pages for each PI or co-PI)

The bio-data of the PI and the co-PIs must list their educational background (undergraduate and graduate degrees, the years obtained, and the granting institutions), relevant employment (positions held, host institutions, employment period), relevant skills, honors and awards, and significant publications (**at most** 5 publications most relevant to the proposed project and **at most** 5 other publications representing significant work by the PI).

**6. Budget** (max 2 pages)

Allowed budget items include salaries for team personnel, equipment, materials and consumables, and travel. The budget justifications should relate closely to the project description. That is, the budget justification should link seamlessly to the narrative of the proposal. The budget should be prepared on the special forms available on the following Web site: [www.uaeu.ac.ae/research](http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/research). Click on Research Grant Competition 2011 located on the left side of the page.

**7. Supplementary Documents:**

Any Letters of Collaboration (from researchers or industrial groups) should be included in this section. These letters should describe the intended collaboration and any support offered. NRF is looking for evidence of **tangible** commitment. The letters should **not** be tantamount to recommendations of the PI or reviews of the proposal from “critical” friends.

## **VI. Proposal Review and Funding Criteria**

The following merit criteria will be applied in assessing submissions:

- The quality, significance, and relevance of the proposed research, including the potential to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields.
- The originality and novelty of the proposed research approach.
- The qualifications of the research team to carry out the proposed work

successfully based on the team members' past accomplishments and future potential.

- The quality of the proposal with respect to its presentation, clarity, organization, completeness, and being well argued.
- The relative intellectual and strategic merits of other proposals participating in the same competition.
- The benefit of the research outcome to UAE. Priority will be given to those proposals that are aligned with UAE National Priorities:
  - Diversifying the UAE economy, e.g.
    - Low energy semiconductors
    - Aerospace
    - Hydrocarbons
  - Improving health in the UAE, e.g.
    - Obesity
    - Diabetes
    - Cardiovascular health
  - Improving education in the UAE
  - Improving management in UAE business or government
  - Improving and expanding UAE public policy
  - Improving sustainability and the environment for the UAE, e.g.
    - Renewable energy
    - Water resources and usage
    - Arid land agriculture

Proposals will be evaluated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) using postal or panel reviews or both by international scholars having expertise in the fields relevant to the proposals. Once NRF has completed the review process, all full proposal applicants, whether successful or not, will receive copies of all mail and panel reviews (with reviewer identities removed).

## **VII. Award Announcement**

Based upon the evaluations provided by the NRF a committee chaired by the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies will decide which of the proposals are to be funded and at what level. The announcement of these grants will be made by June 17, 2011

## **VIII. Grant Administration**

A restricted fund account will be created for each grant in the Faculty of the PI. Administration of the grant will follow the normal procedures of the university and the Faculty of the PI.

**IX. Timeline of Application and Evaluations**

<b>STAGE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>1. General Announcement sent out and new web site goes live</b>	<b>February 7, 2011</b>
<b>2. Four page pre-proposal due</b>	<b>February 20, 2011</b>
<b>3. External review of pre-proposals by NRF completed</b>	<b>March 20, 2011</b>
<b>4. UAEU Evaluation of reviews completed</b>	<b>March 27, 2011</b>
<b>5. Invitations for full proposals sent out</b>	<b>March 27, 2011</b>
<b>6. Full proposals due</b>	<b>April 17, 2011</b>
<b>7. External review of proposals by NRF completed</b>	<b>June 12, 2011</b>
<b>8. UAEU Evaluation of reviews completed</b>	<b>June 16, 2011</b>
<b>9. Grants announced</b>	<b>June 16, 2011</b>