

Guidelines for Collaborative Research Grant Program (CRGP)

1. Faculty members belonging to various academic disciplines or those holding a research scientist position with research-focused Centers, Institutes, and Cells of Khulna University (KU) are eligible to apply in a prescribed format as Principal Investigator (PI) for Collaborative Research Grant Program (CRGP) to be administered by Research and Innovation Centre (RIC).
2. Faculty members holding PhD degree are qualified to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs), whereas Co-PIs must hold an MS, MSc, or comparable degree.
3. This program (CRGP) aims to fund current global thematic areas of research to improve problem-solving innovation, including Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability; Food Security and Agricultural Innovation; Materials Science and Nanotechnology; Biomedical Engineering; Genomics and Precision Medicine; Immunology and Vaccine Development; Cell Biology and Stem Cell Research; Cancer Biology and Therapeutics; Biotechnology and Bioengineering; Smart Grids and Energy Storage; Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning; Health and Pandemic Preparedness; Cyber-Physical Systems and the Internet of Things (IoT); Robotics and Autonomous Systems; Sustainable Urbanization and Social Change; Governance, Institutions, and Policy; Inequality, Social Justice, and Inclusive Development; Cultural Identity and Globalization; Social Justice and Equity; Ethics and Philosophy in the Modern World; Digital and New Media Art; Public and Participatory Art; Art as Activism; Human Rights and Social Justice; International Law and Global Governance; Constitutional and Administrative Law; Intellectual Property Law; Educational Technology and Online Learning; Education and Professional Development and other prominent areas of research. The scope of CRGP encompasses even beyond the area/avenues mentioned above.
4. Apart from KU, researchers and collaborators from other institutions/industries can work as Co-PI in a project with the necessary justification and expertise regarding project objectives. The inclusion of Co-PI must be justified and aligned project's technical aspects. A maximum of two faculties, researchers, industry professionals, and others in both inter and intrainstitutional professionals could be included as Co-PI under CRGP. However, the collaborative nature must be ensured with proper justifications.
5. RIC shall strive to offer research grants to interested and eligible candidates each year. However, the total number of projects to be funded each year will be decided by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) based on the availability of funds.
6. Funding applications can be lodged with RIC as per fund availability through an online submission system to be implemented by RIC. RIC will prepare a list of eligible applications for consideration and subsequent evaluation procedures with approval from RAC.

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7. RIC should create an application form that safeguards the confidentiality of the PI and CoPI identity. The applicants must submit the CVs of the PI and Co-PIs separately, along with the proposal and a concise overview of the implementation team, to RIC. If required, RIC will present these CVs to RAC during the decision-making process for evaluation.
8. The PI of the proposed project could recruit 'Research Assistant(s)' from the students of Khulna University and should propose a budget as a stipend for a maximum of 36 months. The Research Assistant (RA) will be suggested by the PIs during the commencement of the project and counted as a core team member. So, the CVs of each RA must be submitted to the RIC after the commencement of the project, which will be finally endorsed by the RIC and formally given an appointment letter after necessary review and approval by the RAC.
9. The duration of a research project shall be 2-3 years and PI needs to submit a yearly progress report to RIC.
10. In general, PI may request a total fund amounting 15,00,000/- to 25,00,000/- with the justification of each line item in a way so that the requested amount can be granted to successful projects without any change. Failure to do so may lead to unjustifiable budget curtail during the selection process. The direct transfer of project funds outside Khulna University is strictly prohibited. However, the project management team would implement project activities including procurement of goods and services according to budgetary provision.
11. An amount of BDT 50,000/- (per annum) can be allocated for PI as the honorarium, while the Co-PIs (maximum 2 Co-PI) will be entitled to receive an amount of BDT 35,000/- annually.
12. For Research Assistants (RA), the monthly stipend amount will be formulated at the rate of BDT 5,000/month for undergraduate students, BDT 10,000/month for graduate students and BDT 20,000/month for PhD students. This amount shall be used for fellowship only, and hence, researchers need to keep the provision of travel and related other expenses in the budget separately, if deemed necessary.
13. Each proposal will be reviewed by two reviewers as a part of the double-blinded review process, and all two must be from outside KU.
14. The reviewers will evaluate out of 100 points, and an average of these two will be the score, based on which RAC will select the successful projects provided the minimum final score is 60. However, for more than 20% variation in points between the two reviewers, an arrangement will be made for a third reviewer, and the average of the closer two will be the final score in such case(s). In case the three points are equidistant, the average of three points will be considered for calculating the final score.

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15. The reviewers will follow a prescribed format provided by RIC. The RIC will maintain and update a large pool of researchers within/outside the University in this regard.
16. Funding to successful projects shall be made through account payee cheque/bank advice in suitable installments to a project-dedicated bank account to be operated by PI, preferably with Agrani Bank, KU branch.
17. Accounting policies and procedures shall be governed by the policies and practices of the university and it is the responsibility of the PIs to ensure that all project-related expenditures comply with relevant procurement rules (PPR 2025) and applicable taxes.
18. All tangible items such as small equipment, parts and spares, laboratory wares, software, books, and so on must be entered into a stock register of the entity where the PI belongs and a list of such materials countersigned by the concerned Head of the entity (Cell/Centre/Institute/Discipline) must be submitted to RIC with a declaration that such items will be the property of that entity to be used by other researchers following completion of the funded project.
19. Honoraria and fellowship amounts will be released separately from other operational expenses of the project. Upon written request of the PIs, Research Assistants will receive the stipend amount directly from the RIC from within the budgetary provision through an account payee cheque along with a certificate of appreciation. Similarly, RIC shall arrange for the disbursement of honoraria for PI and Co-PIs. However, the honoraria of PI and CoPIs will only be given after the submission of final technical and financial reports by PI.
20. The remuneration and fellowship amount must not exceed 40% of the total budget. 5-7.5% of the budget can be allocated for decommission workshops/seminar/public engagements and it is endorsed for the funded project to make a visual documentation (e.g. documentary)
21. RIC will provide honoraria to the reviewers for the review of research grant proposals as well as for critical review of the draft reports at a rate to be decided by RAC.
22. On completion, PIs need to submit draft project reports following a format prescribed by the RIC. Draft project reports shall be evaluated by two reviewers with at least one from outside the University.
23. PIs need to submit final reports after incorporating modifications/amendments/addendums as suggested by the reviewers along with an itemized list of such changes to be verified by the reviewers or the RIC. PIs, however, may wish to disagree with the entire or part of the reviewer's comment by providing a sufficient explanation to justify his/her stand and RIC will place these cases with all documents before RAC for resolution.
24. Each project must publish at least one article in a Scopus/ Clarivate Analysis indexed journal with an impact factor of not less than 1.0. Until the article is published, the PI will not be eligible to submit

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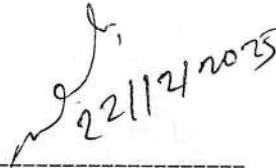
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another proposal, nor s/he will be eligible to act as a Co-PI in another proposal for funding by RIC under CRGP.

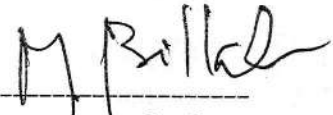
25. Every project that receives funding must adhere to RIC's evaluation and monitoring protocol. The RIC must receive the annual progress report and presentation, and the RIC will then report it to the RAC.
26. Each project must have a clear Intellectual Property (IP) management mechanism and it is highly encouraged to have an IP (patent, trademark, copy write) from the funded project.
27. Successful RGP projects must participate in any events organized by or Khulna University
28. A successful project that RIC funds under CRGP must not be submitted elsewhere for further funding.
29. Failure to comply with clause no. 28 will result in the ineligibility of any form of RIC Funding and an obligatory refund of the entire allocation towards Khulna University with immediate effect.
30. The published paper(s)/works from this grant program RIC funding details must be acknowledged with proper informatics.



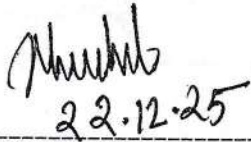
প্রফেসর ড. মোঃ আসাদুজ্জামান
যুগ্ম পরিচালক, গবেষণা ও উদ্ভাবনী কেন্দ্র
এবং
সদস্য, সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি



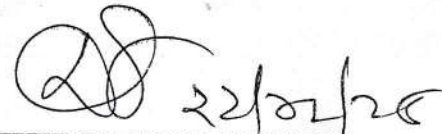
প্রফেসর ড. খান মেহেদী হাসান
যুগ্ম পরিচালক, গবেষণা ও উদ্ভাবনী কেন্দ্র
এবং
সদস্য, সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি



প্রফেসর ড. মোঃ মুদুছালিন বিল্লাহ
BGE ডিসিপ্লিন
এবং
বহিঃস্থ সদস্য, সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি



প্রফেসর ড. মোঃ মাহবুব হোসেন
যুগ্ম পরিচালক, গবেষণা ও উদ্ভাবনী কেন্দ্র
এবং
সদস্য সচিব, সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি



প্রফেসর ড. কাজী মোহাম্মদ দিদারুল ইসলাম
পরিচালক, গবেষণা ও উদ্ভাবনী কেন্দ্র
এবং
আহ্বায়ক, সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি

