The University of Faisalabad

The University of Faisalabad

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

for Prototype Development & Pilot-Scale Studies

The University of Faisalabad

To enhance the research and innovation ecosystem in the university and to facilitate faculty members in generating preliminary data or developing functional prototypes, a Small Grants Program has been initiated at TUF under the OĆce of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). The purpose of this program is to support pilot-scale studies, prototype development and fine-tuning final year projects that can lead to

- Enhancing the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of university innovations
- Empowering faculty-led innovation teams and promoting an entrepreneurial cultur
- Bridging the gap between basic research and applied development
- Validating and scaling of innovative ideas or research outputs for commercializatio
- Preparing competitive proposals for extramural funding (national/international)

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

To accelerate research translation from lab to market.

To support proof-of-concept and prototype development for technologies with commercial or societal potential.

To prepare faculty to respond to calls from national (e.g., NRPU, PSF, IGNITE) and internationalfunding agencies with more refined proposals.

To provide seed funding for faculty to conduct high-potential preliminary studies.

Governance and Implementation Mechanism

Scope and Priority Areas

Health and Allied Sciences

Environmental Solutions

Energy and Water Innovations

ICT Applications

Biotechnology and Life Sciences

Industrial Process Improvements

Entrepreneurship/SMEs

Any new area/priority may be included with the approval of the Rector on recommendation by the Internal Review Committee.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1 FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Full-time faculty members of the University

2 INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

Collaborative proposals involving interdisciplinary teams may be encouraged

3 NO CURRENT ACTIVE GRANTS

Applicant must not be currently availing another grant

Grant Features

- Potential partners may include the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR), Chambers of Commerce, and private sector organizations etc.
- Matching Contribution: Not mandatory but encouraged where feasible.
- Grant Amount: Up to PKR 500,000 per project. A total of PKR 03.0 million may be allocated for this purpose
- Expected Output: Proof of concept prototype/model, and policy recommendation.
- Project Duration: 6 to 12 months.

Selection Criteria

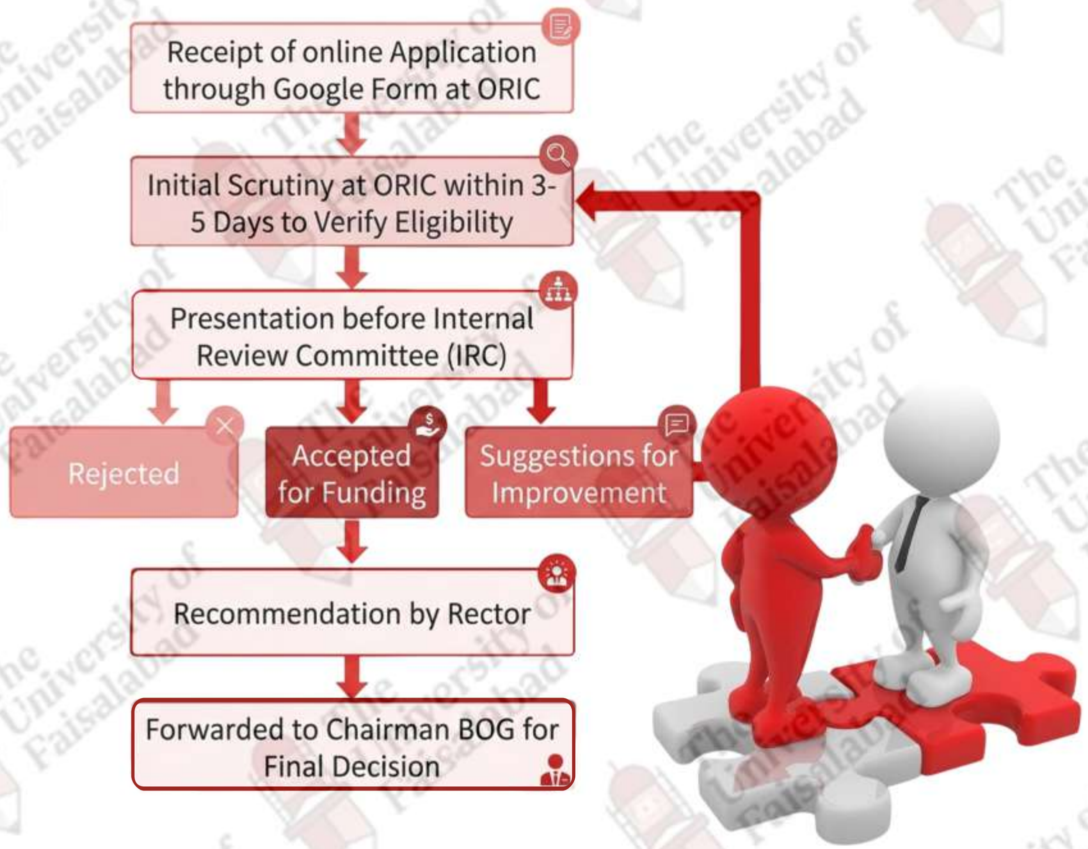
Proposals will be evaluated by the Internal Review Committee (IRC) comprising the following:

- Director ORIC
- Dean of the relevant Faculty
- Registrar

Moreover, the selection criteria will be based on:

- Scientific/Technical merit/prototype
- Innovation potential/uniqueness
- Feasibility/methodology/do-ability
- Prospects for external funding/commercialization /upscaling
- Capacity of the research team
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Timeline/Ghent Chart

To further illustrate the governance and implementation mechanism of the ORIC Small Grants Program, the process flow is presented below:



Monitoring and Reporting

1. Director ORIC will notify a monitoring committee comprising a representative from ORIC, Finance, and a relevant technical external expert from relevant company/industry after approval of the Rector.

2. The committee will evaluate the performance after every quarter in line with the KPIs and timeline

3. Successful grantees will be required to present outcomes in ORIC's Innovation Showcases or Research Seminars.

4. ORIC will provide facilitation in linking outcomes to relevant funding calls or industry partners.

5. Mid-term progress and final completion reports will be mandatory.

Funding Mechanism and Oversight

1. An annual budget of PKR 03.0 million has been allocated for this program from internal university resources.

2. A Program Oversight Committee consisting of the Director ORIC, Registrar, and Manager Finance will be constituted to monitor disbursement, performance and impact.

3. The Internal Review Committee will determine the funds release mechanism considering project needs.

4. The awardee will have to sign an agreement to complete the project.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits