

# Call for Research Proposals First Cycle of 2020

*(17th November 2019 – 16th January 2020)*

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) is pleased to announce the first cycle of 2020 for the funding of research proposals in the following areas:

## **1. National Priority Research Grants:**

These grants are designed to address research areas of national priority, in line with the National Development Plan of Kuwait, and that will contribute to the sustainability and wellbeing of the country and population within the health, environment, water and energy research domains. Priority will be given to research proposals under these national priority areas:

**A. Health:** Research on chronic non-communicable diseases, under the following topics:

- Cardiovascular disease and associated complications, except diabetes and obesity related research; KFAS provides funding for diabetes related research at the Dasman Diabetes Institute, a KFAS subsidiary<sup>1</sup>.
- Cancer, with an emphasis on those with higher prevalence rates in Kuwait (e.g. breast, colon, lung).
- Neurological disorders (i.e. Multiple sclerosis),
- Public Health Related studies (i.e. health surveys, etc.).

### **B. Environment**

- Managing, processing and recycling solid waste.
- Improving the quality of the air and managing sources of gas emissions.
- Preserving and rehabilitating the terrestrial ecosystem and natural vegetation.
- Protecting and preserving the marine environment, and the sustainable management of Kuwait fish resources.

### **C. Water Resources**

- New and Innovative Water Desalination Technologies.
- Water Desalination Technologies using Renewable Energy.
- Water Demand Management.
- Development of Nano Membrane Technologies.
- Modern Sewage Water Treatment Technologies.

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<sup>1</sup> Research proposals related to diabetes should be directly submitted to Dasman Diabetes Institute and will be considered according to the Institute's procedures and regulations and in line with its programs' priorities and available resources.

## **D. Energy**

- Applications and Technologies of Renewable Energy.
- Energy Demand Side Management.
- Smart Applications of Energy Efficiency Technologies.
- Innovative Air-Cooling Systems.
- Carbon Capture, Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS).
- Blue Hydrogen Technology (Production of Hydrogen from Liquid Hydrocarbons Coupled with CCUS).
- Technologies for Enhanced and Improved Production of Heavy Oil.
- Energy and Cost Efficiency: especially in relation to the processes in the Kuwait's Oil Industry (i.e. exploration, production, refining, and petrochemicals).
- Improving the quality of environmental specifications for oil products.

## **E. Scientific, Economic And Social Research Pertinent To National Development.**

- Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.
- Policies and incentives for Small to Medium size enterprise (SMEs).
- Restructuring Energy and Water Subsidies in Kuwait.
- Job Security Current and Future Challenges.
- Other emerging socioeconomic issues.

## **2. Early Career Research Grants:**

This grant is intended to support early career researchers (within 7 years from completing their Ph.D. degree) towards establishing their research careers and enhancing their professional development. Priority will be given to proposals in the national priority areas (as stated in section 1 above). Funding limit is KD 10,000.

## **3. Exploratory Research Grants:**

The Exploratory/Developmental Grant is intended to support research proposals in early and conceptual stages of development, that, if successful, may lead to a breakthrough in the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models, or applications. Priority will be given to proposals in the national priority areas (as stated in section 1 above). Funding limit is KD 10,000.

## **4. General Grants:**

The general grants are intended to support proposals that span all research fields, beyond national priority areas, from basic sciences to industrially applicable sciences, technical innovations, and research related to the need of the Kuwaiti private sector, and research that have clearly demonstrated application of high value to the society and economy of Kuwait.

## REVIEW PROCESS

**All submitted proposals will be evaluated by external peer reviewers as follows:**

- One external peer reviewer for research proposals with budgets of less than KD 10,000.
- Three external peer reviewers for research proposals with budgets between KD 10,000 – KD 50,000.
- Three external peer reviewers and final approval from the Research Funding Council for research proposals with budgets exceeding KD 50,000.

**In addition to the feedback of the external peer reviewers, proposals will also be ranked based on eligibility criteria, which will be used to select and prioritize research proposals for funding. The eligibility criteria include the following:**

- Research subject (i.e. National Priority area).
- Estimated budget and requested grant from KFAS.
- Potential economic and social impact of research outcomes.
- Collaboration with researchers from prominent international universities and research institutions.
- Capacity Building and Training Plan.
- Number of ongoing research projects funded by KFAS for the applicant.
- Applicant's research portfolio and track record (number of publications, previous funding history, etc.)
- Any other criteria that KFAS deems necessary or identified based on KFAS strategic objectives.

**KFAS decisions regarding research grants are final and not subject to appeal.**