

RESEARCH@



University Research Council- University of Peradeniya

**VOL: II ISSUE: VIII
URC E-NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2022**

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EU Grants

ERC-2023-CoG consolidator grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2023-CoG consolidator grants. These enable researchers to consolidate their independence by establishing or strengthening a research team. Applications may be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering.

PIs may be of any nationality and based in any country at the time of application. They should have been awarded their PhD between seven and 12 years prior and must show evidence of research independent, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without participation of their PhD supervisor. Host institutions must be established in EU member states or associated countries

The applicant does not need to be working at the institution at the time of application. Applicants must spend a minimum of 50 per cent of working time in an EU member state or associated country and a minimum of 40 per cent of their working time on the ERC project.

Closing date 02 February 2023

Award amount max €3,000,000

ERC-2023-ADG advanced grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2023-ADG advanced grants. These support established research leaders in conducting innovative research projects. Applications may be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering.

Applicants may be researchers of any age or nationality, and may reside in any country at the time of the application. They must be active researchers with a track record of significant research achievements in the last ten years. They must spend a minimum of 50 per cent of working time in an EU member state or associated country and a minimum of 30 per cent of their working time on the ERC project. They must be engaged at the host institution for the duration of the project. Host institutions must be established in EU member states or associated countries.

Closing date 23 May 2023

Award amount max €3,500,000

Fellowships

International Research Center for Japanese Studies

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies invites applications for its visiting research scholar fellowships. These support scholars in conducting research on Japanese studies while in residence at the centre. They are free to carry out their individual research but must also engage in collaborative activity with the centre's permanent faculty by participating in at least one of the team research projects.

Researchers of any nationality not more than 65 years old when the research period begins, who live outside Japan, are eligible to apply. Applicants with a doctoral degree, who are employed by a university or other research institution, are preferred.

Visits may last three to 12 months. Salary is determined on the basis of salary regulations and will reflect the visiting research scholar's seniority.

Closing date 30 November 2022

Country of applicant institution Sri Lanka is included

Website <https://www.nichibun.ac.jp/en/research/employment/team/>

Digital humanities postdoctoral fellowship

The University of Toronto's Jackman Humanities Institute, with support from the Council of Library and Information Resources, invites applications for its digital humanities postdoctoral fellowship. This enables an early-career scholar to conduct a digital humanities research project that relates to the theme of labour while in residence at the institute. The fellowship provides an opportunity to conduct independent research while working to foster the institute's Digital Humanities Network.

Applicants may be of any nationality. They must have completed their doctoral degree within five years of 1 July 2022.

Closing date 30 November 2022

Award amount max CAD 56,275

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.humanities.utoronto.ca/announcements/call-applications-22-23-jhi-digital-humanities-post-doctoral-fellowship>

New media and public humanities postdoctoral fellowship

The University of Toronto, under the Jackman Humanities Institute, invites applications for its new media and public humanities postdoctoral fellowship. This supports research in new media or other journalism initiatives to bring humanities research into public discussion. The theme for this year is labour.

Citizens of all countries may apply. Applicants must have received a PhD in humanities, writing, media studies or journalism between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2022, and must have a public media record going back to at least 1 July 2020.

Closing date 30 November 2022

Award amount max CAD 56,275

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.humanities.utoronto.ca/news/2023-2024-new-media-and-public-humanities-postdoctoral-fellowship>

Snorri Sturluson Icelandic fellowships

The University of Iceland's Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies invites applications for the Snorri Sturluson Icelandic fellowships. These enable scholars to stay in Iceland in order to improve their knowledge of the Icelandic language, culture and society.

Applicants may be writers, translators or scholars in the field of humanities and must be living outside of Iceland.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount Fellowships cover travel expenses to and from Iceland, plus living expenses for a period of at least three months.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.arnastofnun.is/en/snorri-sturluson-icelandic-fellowships>

Scientific scholar awards

The Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research invites applications for its scientific scholar awards. These support laboratory and clinical scientists in pursuing careers as independent investigators in ovarian cancer research. The goal is to attract junior investigators as well as established investigators into ovarian cancer research and to develop their potential as leaders.

Applicants must have an MD, PhD or equivalent degree with career goals focused on ovarian cancer. Clinicians must have completed their residency. Candidates should be at the postdoctoral, fellow, instructor, research assistant or assistant professor level with no more than four years in any of these positions.

Closing date 01 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 120,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://rivkin.org/research/grants/scientific-scholar-awards/>

Mathematics fellowships

The Institute for Advanced Study's School of Mathematics invites applications for its fellowships. These enable researchers to pursue research projects in mathematics at the school.

Mathematicians and theoretical computer scientists at the postdoctoral and mid-to-senior career levels may apply. Applications from women and minorities are strongly encouraged. Candidates will be free to devote themselves full-time to research.

There are the following fellowship categories:

- postdoctoral membership, with approximately 35 positions available;
- postdoctoral joint positions, with approximately 10 positions available;
- Von Neumann fellowships, with approximately 8 positions;
- mid-to-senior career level memberships, with approximately 12 positions available;
- special-year programme membership, with approximately 20 positions available;

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount Fellowships may include stipends, on-campus housing, and other resources

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.ias.edu/math/apply/sabbatical>

Nieman visiting fellowships

Harvard University invites applications for the Nieman visiting fellowships. These offer visiting fellowships to support projects designed to advance journalism.

Applicants may be journalists, publishers, technologists, entrepreneurs, programmers, designers, media analysts, academics and others who want to make an impact on journalism. There is no age limit or academic prerequisites and a college degree is not required.

Candidates must be available to be in residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the United States for the duration of the fellowship.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount A weekly stipend of USD 1,325 for up to 12 weeks

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://nieman.harvard.edu/fellowships/nieman-visiting-fellowships/>

Research fellowships for graduate students

The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University invites applications for its research fellowships for graduate students. These support graduate students in using the Beinecke collection to pursue onsite research.

Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree programme and have completed their coursework and all qualifying examinations.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount Include round-trip travel to New Haven, worth up to USD 5,000, and a USD 5,000 stipend per month for up to four months

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/programs/fellowships/research-fellowships-graduate-students>

Global Education Monitoring Report fellowship

UNESCO, in partnership with the Open Society Foundation, invites applications for its Global Education Monitoring Report fellowship. This supports the production of a background paper for the Global Education Monitoring Report. Projects must focus on one or both aspects of the following core objective aspects:

- monitoring and reporting on the progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4, the global education goal, and related aspects of other SDGs;
- reporting on the implementation of national and international strategies to help hold all relevant partners to account for their commitments as part of the SDG follow-up and review.

Applicants may be based at research institutions, universities, government agencies or professional organisations. They must have an advanced degree in education, sociology, economics, political science, psychology, demography, statistics, psychometrics or other related fields, and have proven experience in both policy analysis and organising projects in research or policy contexts.

Closing date 01 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount Include a stipend worth up to USD 19,500 for between six and eleven months, plus a mentor

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.researchprofessional.com/funding-opportunities/fop/2117318>

Clinical training fellowship programme

The European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis invites applications for its clinical training fellowship programme. This supports neurologists and physicians to learn the latest techniques in patient management and care and help to foster their careers as multiple sclerosis physicians.

Candidates must hold an MD or equivalent degree, have a specialty interest in neurology or any other field of medicine that is related and must be under the age of 40. Applicants from less developed countries where multiple sclerosis is a prevalent disease are especially encouraged to apply. The fellowship must be spent in a European clinic or a clinical research centre focused on multiple sclerosis.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount Stipends are worth €13,750 for a three month programme, €27,500 for a six month programme and €55,000 for a one year programme

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.ectrims.eu/fellowships/ectrims-multiple-sclerosis-clinical-training-fellowship-programme/>

Allied healthcare professionals fellowship programme

The European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis invites applications for its allied healthcare professionals fellowship programme. This enables nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, and related allied health care professionals to obtain additional expertise through practical nursing experience and training in a mentored MS environment in Europe.

Applicants may be of any nationality, no more than 55 years of age and must be licensed for nursing practice in their home country. The training must take place in a European institution or clinic.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount Stipends are worth €55,000 per year. For training periods shorter than a year, stipends will be awarded accordingly to the length of the programme. Fellows will also receive a travel grant at the beginning and end of the training period, as well as travel and accommodation for the annualECTRIMS congress.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.ectrims.eu/fellowships/ectrims-multiple-sclerosis-professional-training-fellowship-programme-for-nurses-psychologists-physiotherapists-and-related-allied-health-care-professionals/>

Senior postdoctoral fellowship

The Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders (FWO) invites applications for its senior postdoctoral fellowship. This enables researchers who have completed their PhD a few years ago to develop an independent, international research career.

Applicants must have a PhD degree that was awarded at least three years and at most six years before 1 October in the year that the fellowship commences, as well as at least two years of postdoctoral experience.

Closing date 01 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max €241,423

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/postdoctoral-fellowships/senior-postdoctoral-fellowship/>

International fellowships - New Europe College Institute for Advanced Study, EUR

The New Europe College Institute for Advanced Study invites applications for its international fellowships. These enable young international researchers and academics working in the fields of humanities, social studies, law and economics to spend one term or a full academic year at the NEC.

Applicants must hold a PhD.

Closing date 10 January 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount The fellowship includes a monthly stipend of €850, accommodation and international transport costs to and from the home country at the beginning and end of the fellowship and for certain holidays. Fellows staying for the whole academic year are offered a one-month research trip to an institution of their choice, or towards field research.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://nec.ro/fellowships/apply-for-a-fellowship/>

PhD Scholarships

Singapore international graduate award

The Singapore Agency for Science, Technology and Research, in collaboration with the Nanyang Technological University, the National University of Singapore, the Singapore University of Technology and Design and the Singapore Management University, invites applications for the Singapore international graduate award. This enables international students to do their PhD training in Singapore in the fields of biomedical sciences, computing and information sciences, engineering and technology, and physical sciences. Applications are invited from all international students with excellent academic results.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount The award provides support for up to four years and includes a monthly stipend worth SGD 2,200 which will be increased to SGD 2,700 after the passing of the qualifying examination, full tuition fees, a one-time SGD 1,000 settling in allowance, and a one-time airfare grant of up to SGD 1,500.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Scholarships/For-Graduate-Studies/Singapore-International-Graduate-Award-SINGA>

Hong Kong PhD fellowship

The University Grants Committee, through the Research Grants Council, invites applications for the Hong Kong PhD fellowships. These support students in pursuing their PhD studies at a Hong Kong university. Individuals seeking admission as new full-time PhD students in the eight Hong Kong universities, irrespective of their country of origin, prior work experience and ethnic background, may apply.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount A total of 300 fellowships are available, each providing an annual stipend of HKD 322,800 and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HKD 13,500 per year for up to three years. Additional support may be provided for those who need more than three years to complete their degree.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html>

Research Grants

Research grants - Mazak Foundation, JP

The Mazak Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These support institutions and individuals who are engaged in R&D relating to production engineering, information network technologies, control technologies, machine tools and other peripheral equipment such as robotics.

Individuals, universities and technical colleges and research institutions may apply.

Closing date 30 November 2022

Award amount JPY 500,000 - 2,000,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <http://www.mazak-f.or.jp/eng/05.html>

Research grants - International Essential Tremor Foundation, INT

The International Essential Tremor Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These support research projects that address the aetiology and pathogenesis of essential tremor.

Researchers or clinicians in the US and non-US academic or private institutions are eligible. Postdoctoral fellows may apply with the designation of an appropriate administrative PI who directs the laboratory where the fellow will conduct the research.

Closing date 30 November 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 150,000 - 350,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://essentialtremor.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/RFA-IETF-2022.pdf>

Commonwealth grants

The Commonwealth Foundation invites preliminary applications for its grants. These support civil society projects aiming to advance issues related to health, environmental and climate change and freedom of expression. Initiatives that encourage and enable meaningful and constructive engagement between civil society and government are relevant.

Applicants must be non-profits registered in an eligible Commonwealth Foundation member country.

Closing date 30 November 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max £15,000 - 60,000

Country of applicant institution Sri Lanka included

Website <http://commonwealthfoundation.com/grants/>

International grants - Biocodex Microbiota Foundation, FR

The Biocodex Microbiota Foundation invites applications for its international grants. These support clinical or fundamental research projects focused on human gut microbiota related to health and disease. For the current round, projects will explore the functional role of antibiotic resistance genes within the gut microbiome, with a focus on anaerobic microorganisms that are difficult to assess in routine clinical microbiology. Physicians, PhDs and doctors of pharmacy working in subject areas, such as gastroenterology, paediatrics, microbiology, infectious diseases and internal medicine and based anywhere in the world, may apply. Researchers must be affiliated with universities, hospitals or other research settings.

Closing date 30 November 2022 (Forecast)
Award amount max €200,000
Country of applicant institution Any
Website <https://www.biocodexmicrobiotafoundation.com/international-grant/call-for-projects-2023>

STTI/Western Institute of Nursing research grant

Sigma Theta Tau International and the Western Institute of Nursing invite applications for their research grant. This encourages qualified nurses to contribute to the advancement of nursing through research. Proposals for pilot or developmental research are welcome.

Applicants must be registered nurses with a current licence, have a doctoral degree or be enrolled in a doctoral programme and be members of the Western Institute of Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Closing date 01 December 2022
Award amount USD 10,000
Country of applicant institution Any
Website <https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/research/research-grants/western-institute-of-nursing-research-grant>

Sustainable solid waste management grants

The Environmental Research and Education Foundation invites pre-proposals for its sustainable solid waste management grants. These support research that increases sustainable solid waste management practices. This includes:

- waste minimisation;
- recycling;
- waste conversion to energy, biofuels, chemicals or other useful products;
- strategies to promote diversion to higher and better uses;
- landfilling.

Institutions worldwide may apply. Submissions may include multiple institutions. PIs should typically be full-time faculty members at academic institutions, postdoctoral employees or principals or seniors at non-academic institutions.

Closing date 01 December 2022
Award amount Grants are typically in the range of USD 15,000 to USD 500,000 each
Country of applicant institution Any
Website <https://www.erefndn.org/research-grants-projects/how-to-apply-for-grant/>

Osteology researcher grants

The Osteology Foundation invites applications for its osteology research grants. These support research on oral tissue regeneration. Topics may include:

- clinical aspects of hard and soft tissue biology;
- novel bone and soft tissue substitute materials;
- local factors affecting oral tissue regeneration;
- systemic diseases with an impact on oral tissue regeneration;
- pharmacological aspects of oral tissue regeneration;
- inflammatory conditions, such as periodontitis and peri-implantitis.

Applications are open to advanced researchers in the field of oral tissue regeneration and young researchers currently undergoing postgraduate education or within three years thereafter.

Closing date 01 December 2022
Award amount max CHF 100,000
Country of applicant institution Any
Website <https://www.osteology.org/grants/researcher-grants/>

Research grants for education

The Spencer Foundation invites proposals for its research grants. These support

- smaller scale or pilot projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived.
- education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived. This programme supports proposals with multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives that develops new foundational knowledge that may also have a lasting impact on educational discourse.

The PIs and co-PIs must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field or appropriate experience in an education research-related profession. Proposals are accepted from the US and internationally, however all proposals must be submitted in English and budgets must be proposed in USD.

Closing date 09 December 2022 for small research grant and 12 January 2023 for large research grants

Award amount max USD 50,000 for small research grants and USD 125,000 to 500,000 for large research grant

Country of applicant institution Any

Website https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/small-research-grant AND https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/large-research-grant

Human networks and data science – infrastructure

The National Science Foundation, under its Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences, invites proposals for its human networks and data science infrastructure programme. This supports the development of data resources and relevant analytic techniques that support fundamental SBE research in the context of human networks.

Foreign organisations may apply in consortium with US organisations. The proposer must explain why local support is not feasible and why the foreign organisation can carry out the activity more effectively.

Closing date 02 February 2023

Award amount max USD 1,200,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/human-networks-and-data-science-hnds>

Networking

Globus opstart programme

The Nordic Culture Fund invites applications for its globus opstart programme. This supports the establishment of global networks and collaborations between artists and cultural practitioners from the Nordic countries and the rest of the world. Projects may include both physical meetings or be developed using digital platforms and tools.

Projects must have a Nordic anchoring but must not be able to be developed in the Nordic region alone. Projects involving both the global south and the global north are encouraged.

Closing date 30 November 2022

Award amount max DKK 50,000

Country of applicant institution Denmark; Finland; Norway; Sweden; Iceland

Research group grants - Bielefeld University, DE

Bielefeld University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) invites proposals for its research group grants. These support the establishment of interdisciplinary research groups. Projects must have an interdisciplinary approach, academic quality, and originality on an international level. The following three different grant schemes are available:

- visiting groups – one to three months; for example explore new research topics and partnerships, finalise interdisciplinary publications or conduct small research projects.
- resident groups – four to six months; may conduct more extensive research projects, which require intensive collaboration over an extended period.
- ong-term groups – several visits to ZiF over a period of up to three years; these recurring visits may add up to a total of ten months.

Groups must consist of at least three members and international participation is explicitly encouraged. Scholars may have a background in any discipline post-PhD and be based in Germany or abroad.

Closing date 08 December 2022

Award amount Visiting groups may request up to €50,000 to cover the costs for travel and accommodation as well as workshops and conferences. Resident groups may request up to €400,000 to cover the costs for travel and accommodation as well as workshops, conferences, and personnel expenses and long-term groups may request up to €200,000 to cover the costs for travel and accommodation as well as workshops and conferences.

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZiF/>

Survey data collection methods collaboration

The Economic and Social Research Council invites applications for its survey data collection methods collaboration call. This supports a survey data collection methods collaboration to deliver a step-change in approaches to collecting population survey data. The aim is to help develop research and leadership capacity across career stages in the survey research methods community.

The principal investigator for this funding opportunity must be based at a UK higher education institutions, research council institutes, UK Research and Innovation approved independent research organisations, public sector research establishments

or NHS bodies with research capacity. Co-investigators from business, third sector or government can be included in research proposals. Active collaboration between UK researchers and those in other countries, and co-investigators based in overseas research organisations is encouraged.

Closing date 30 November 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max £3,300,000

Country of applicant institution United Kingdom

Website <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/the-survey-data-collection-methods-collaboration/>

Conference and workshop grants

The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research invites applications for its conference and workshops grants. These support events that foster the creation of an international community of research scholars and advance significant and innovative anthropological research. Priority is given to major conferences sponsored by large international anthropological organisations that serve as their annual or periodic meetings.

Applicants must be professional anthropologists who are the primary organisers of the proposed conference or workshop. A co-applicant may be specified on the application. Both virtual and in person events are eligible.

Closing date 01 December 2022

Award amount max USD 20,000

Country of applicant institution United Kingdom

Website <https://wennergren.org/program/conference-and-workshop-grant/>

Publication Supporting Fund



Research Publication Facilitation Fund [RPFF] University of Peradeniya

The University Research Council [URC] is pleased to announce that it has initiated a scheme to provide financial assistance up to a maximum of USD 1000.00 per year for the researchers of University of Peradeniya to facilitate publishing their research findings in high-ranking peer reviewed journals.

Financial Assistance:

USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.



Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant should be a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya and one of the authors of the journal article.
- The University of Peradeniya should have been identified as the sole affiliation or one of the affiliations. Journal articles which do not carry the University of Peradeniya as an affiliation are not eligible for funding.
- The journal should be indexed in one of the following Web of Science indexes:
 - Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
 - Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
 - Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)
- The impact factor of the journal should be 2 or higher
- The corresponding author of the journal article should have used the institutional e-mail address (pdn.ac.lk or any variant)
- None of the applicants should have used this facility within the current calendar year

The URC reserves the right to amend the eligibility criteria. The article processing charge will be reimbursed subject to the availability of funds.

Procedure

The applicant should fill in an application form and submit the same to the Director, URC through the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty along with the original copy of the receipt for the payment of page charges and a copy of the journal article. The article should have been published either online or printed with a valid DOI in the journal within the year of concern.

The application can be downloaded from

https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/doc/Application%20For%20RPFF_URC_2021.pdf

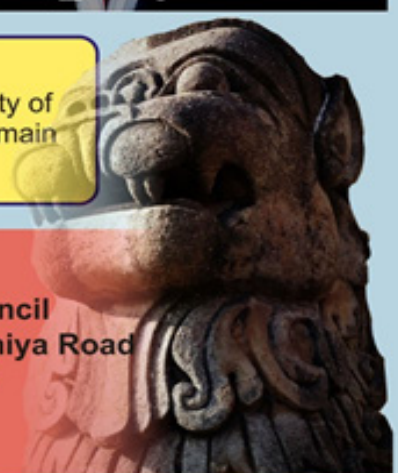
Important:

The author/s other than the corresponding author affiliated to the University of Peradeniya are encouraged to use the official e-mail address with pdn domain name provided by the University of Peradeniya.



more information

The Director
University Research Council
A6 Building, Udaperadeniya Road
University of Peradeniya
dirurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk



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- Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
<https://youtu.be/Ls747xcqCH8>
- Introduction to MATLAB for Biologists
<https://youtu.be/-Kh2Ip9kMvQ>
- Introduction to MATLAB for Biologists Part 2
https://youtu.be/fqpHQ8f5cuc?list=PL1gvDUDHwQg-0KG__edStIY-DzldtWAQnn
- Grant Writing and Management workshop
<https://youtu.be/I1atDs3I6m4>
- Workshop All about Publishing Technical Papers
<https://youtu.be/HNNnmaWjtAg>
- Workshop on Procurement process for researchers
<https://youtu.be/YOtQ4vGyGrY>

The university ranking system changing

In order to take a deeper look at how universities approach the UN's SDGs, the questions for the "The Impact Rankings 2023" are refining and expanding.

The Impact Rankings team believe that internationalisation deeply strengthens universities. Knowledge is inherently global and the collaboration of people from different backgrounds makes for a better learning and research environment. To evaluate this, the following three metrics are currently used:

- Proportion of international students
- Proportion of international staff
- Proportion of publications with at least one co-author from an international institution

The University of Peradeniya will definitely score low on the first two metrics and therefore this is an appeal for our researchers to consider the third point seriously. Each of these metrics is worth 2.5 per cent of the overall score, meaning that internationalisation makes up 7.5 per cent in total.

They are also introducing a new measure to check internationalization. That is the number of students on international exchange programmes (essentially a measure of outbound student exchange). Considering the travel restrictions due to COVID 19, while universities are asked to provide data on outbound exchange students on a voluntary basis for WUR 2024, and the data will be validated and scored, the figures will be given zero weight in the final ranking calculation. However, the weights will be adjusted in the future. **Therefore, we have time to react to this and all academic programmes can seriously consider student exchange programmes.**

The Impact Rankings team is also considering a new normalization. Large countries – some of which may be home to many diverse cultures – are at a big disadvantage when compared with smaller countries and regions. Students can travel hundreds of kilometres in the US and still be in the same country. That is a luxury that doesn't exist in Luxembourg or Qatar or many smaller nations. The result: it is "easier" for universities in Luxembourg and Qatar to do well in these measures. To deal with this challenge, it was decided to introduce a new type of normalisation that will take into account the size of the country. There are several ways of measuring a country's size. However, as the capacity of higher education is largely guided by the country's overall population, it will be used for normalization. There is also a question of how to use the population values. The sizes of populations of different countries vary widely – from 1.4 billion in China to 650,000 in Luxembourg. As applying for these numbers directly to the metric calculation, would skew the scores far too much, they will use the logarithm of the population.

Looking forward to your contributions to the October edition

Email:
secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk

PUBLISHED BY :

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

ADDRESS:

**A6 Buiding, University of Peradeniya,
Peradeniya,
20400**

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Prof. Janaka B. Ekanayake

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

**Dr. HDWT Damayanthi
Director/ URC**

GRAPIC DESIGN & LAYOUT:

Ms. Nadeesha Pananwala