

RESEARCH@

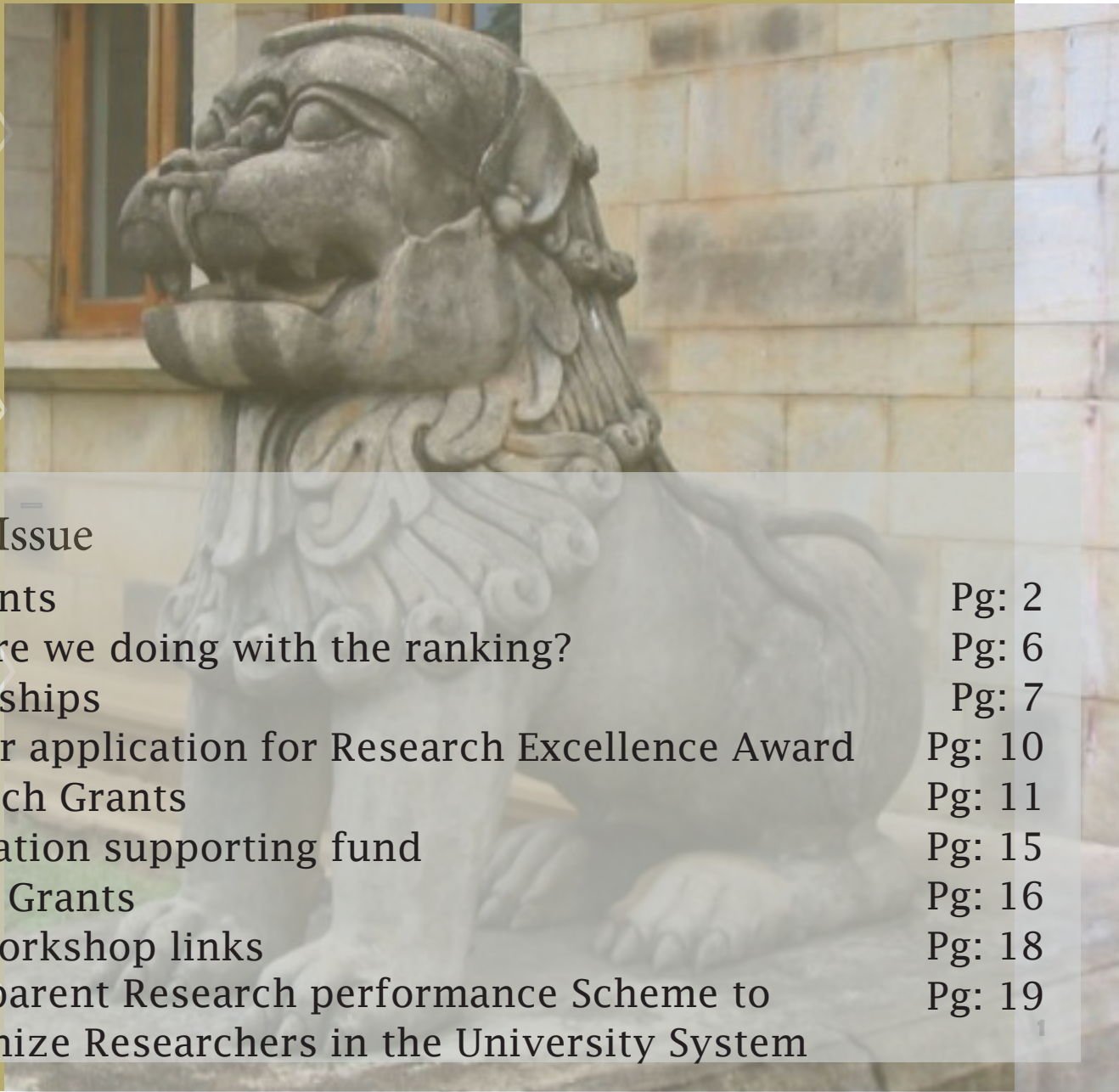


University Research Council- University of Peradeniya

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h- Index

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS BASED ON
Tier 4* **THE TRANSPARENT RESEARCH**
PERFORMANCE SCHEME



In this Issue

- EU grants Pg: 2
- How are we doing with the ranking? Pg: 6
- Fellowships Pg: 7
- Call for application for Research Excellence Award Pg: 10
- Research Grants Pg: 11
- Publication supporting fund Pg: 15
- Travel Grants Pg: 16
- URC workshop links Pg: 18
- Transparent Research performance Scheme to Recognize Researchers in the University System Pg: 19

EU grants

ERC-2023-PoC proof-of-concept grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2023-PoC proof-of-concept grants. These aim to maximise the value of ERC-funded research by funding further work to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC-funded projects.

All principal investigators in an ERC frontier research project, that is either ongoing or has ended less than one year before 1 January 2023, may apply. The host institution must engage the PI for at least the duration of the project and must be established in an EU member state or associated country as a legal entity.

Closing date 24 January 2023

Award amount max €150,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/proof-concept>

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 members states or associated countries as a legal entity under national law, or may be an international European research organisation, the European Commission's joint research centre or any other entity under EU law, including public and private entities, universities, research organisations and similar undertakings. 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

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/consolidator-grant>

Jean Monnet activities call

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites proposals for the Jean Monnet activities call. This promotes excellence in teaching and research in the field of EU studies worldwide and fosters the dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, with the aim of enhancing governance of EU policies. Funding is available for the following activities:

- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-MODULE – Jean Monnet modules, with grants worth up to €30,000 each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-CHAIR Jean Monnet chairs, with grants worth up to €50,000 each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-COE Jean Monnet centres of excellence, with grants worth up to €100,000 each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-NETWORKS-HEI-EU Jean Monnet networks on internal EU issues, with grants worth up to €1 million each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-NETWORKS-HEI-NON-EU Jean Monnet networks on foreign policy issues, with grants worth up to €1.2m each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-OFET-LEARNING-EU Jean Monnet learning EU initiatives, with grants worth up to €30,000 each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-NETWORKS-SCHOOLS Jean Monnet networks in other fields of education and training, with grants worth up to €300,000 each for a duration of three years;
- ERASMUS-JMO-2022-OFET-TT Jean Monnet networks in other fields of education and training – teacher training, with grants worth up to €300,000 each for a duration of three years.

Applications in the field of higher education are open to HEIs worldwide. Applications for teacher trainings must be submitted by one HEI or one teacher training institute or agency based in an Erasmus+ programme country. Applications for networks must be submitted by one school or vocational educational training institute established in an Erasmus+ programme country on behalf of the partners in the proposed network.

Closing date 01 March 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €1,200,000

Country of applicant institution Any

LIFE-2021-PREP – preparatory projects

The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, through the programme for environment and climate action (LIFE), invites applications for its preparatory projects call. This provides financial support to projects designed to address ad hoc legislative and policy priorities on climate action. The following topics are available:

- LIFE-2021-PREP-NATURA — nature and biodiversity with a total budget of €3 million;
- LIFE-2021-PREP-Environment — circular economy and quality of LIFE with a total budget of €1 million;
- LIFE-2021-PREP-Networking — fostering the Network of LIFE national contact points with a total budget of €800,000.

Applicants must be legal entities established in EU member states or countries associated to the LIFE programme. The co-ordinator of the project must be established in an EU member state. Other entities may participate in other consortium roles.

Closing date 10 March 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €500,000 - 1,000,000

Country of applicant institution EU

HORIZON-EIC-2022-TRANSITIONCHALLENGES-01 – EIC transition challenge driven call

The European Innovation Council, under Horizon Europe: Innovation Europe, invites proposals for its EIC transition – challenge driven call. This aims to leverage results of an ongoing or recently finished pathfinder, FET flagship or European Research Council proof of concept project in specific challenge areas and push forward groundbreaking innovations with a clear perspective towards market uptake for specific applications. The challenge areas are:

- HORIZON-EIC-2022-TRANSITIONCHALLENGES-01-01 – green digital devices for the future;
- HORIZON-EIC-2022-TRANSITIONCHALLENGES-01-02 – process and system integration of clean energy technologies;
- HORIZON-EIC-2022-TRANSITIONCHALLENGES-01-03 – RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases.

Activities should mature a technology beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory and develop the business case for the market uptake of the technology in an innovation for a specific application or set of applications that address the objectives of the challenge. The outcome should be a technology that is demonstrated to be effective, together with a business model and business plan for its development to market.

Proposals may be submitted by a single entity established in a member state or associated country if they are an SME or research performing organisation, or a small consortium of between two and five independent legal entities that may include universities, research organisations, SMEs or larger companies, user or customer organisations or potential end users.

Closing date 28 March 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €2,500,000

Country of applicant institution Any

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 members states or associated countries as a legal entity under national law, or may be an international European research organisation, the European Commission's joint research centre, or any other entity under EU law, including public and private entities, universities, research organisations and similar undertakings.

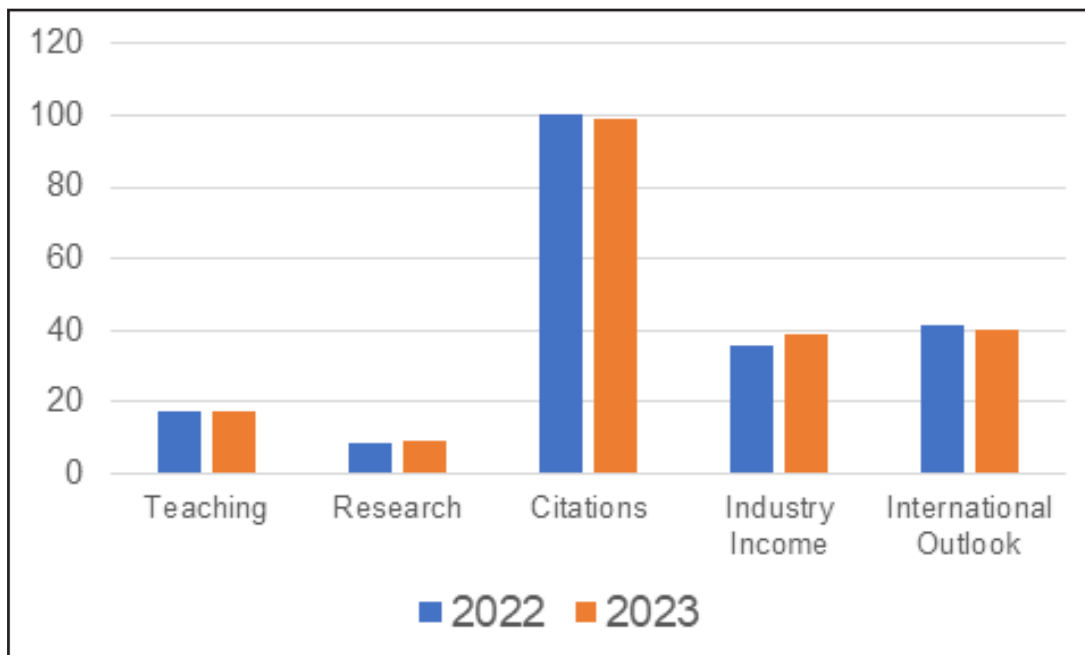
Closing date 23 May 2023

Award amount max €3,500,000

Country of applicant institution Any

How are we doing with THE ranking?

As you may aware based on the latest ranking figures, the University of Peradeniya has come down from Top 500 to 500 – 600 tier. The following figure show our scores under the main indicators they used for ranking. As can be seen from the diagram our research score has gone up from 8.4 to 8.9 but still the lowest among indicators.



	2020	2021	2022	2023
UoP	401 - 500	401 - 500	401 - 500	501 - 600
UoC	1001+	1001+	801 - 1000	601 - 800

Fellowships

Anne Jacobson Schutte fellowship for early modern studies

The Newberry Library invites applications for the Anne Jacobson Schutte fellowship for early modern studies. This supports research on the early modern period, from 1300 to 1700, using the Newberry collection. This fellowship is open to all fields of study with preference given to research related to women's studies, spirituality, or Venice.

Postdoctoral scholars, PhD candidates, and scholars with terminal degrees in areas that do not offer a PhD are eligible. Graduate student applicants must be ABD by the application deadline. The majority of Newberry fellowships—short- and long-term—are open to scholars of any nationality.

Closing date 15 December 2022

Award amount max USD 3,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.newberry.org/research/fellowships/how-to-apply>

Center for Ethics and Public Affairs faculty fellowships

Tulane University, on behalf of the Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, invites applications for its faculty fellowships. These support faculty whose teaching and research focus on ethics; political and social philosophy; moral psychology, agency, and responsibility; philosophy of law; political theory; or questions of moral choice in areas such as, but not restricted to, business, government, law, economics, and medicine.

Applicants must hold a doctorate in philosophy, political theory, law, political economy, or a related discipline at the time of application. Applicants must also hold a full-time college or university appointment at any rank at the time of application. Three fellowships, worth USD 67,500 each for one academic year, are available.

Closing date 15 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 67,500

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://murphy.tulane.edu/center/faculty-fellowships>

Oak Human Rights Fellowship

Colby College, under the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights, invites nominations for its human rights fellowship. This enables a human rights professional who is doing on-the-ground work to teach and conduct research at the college in the field of human rights. The theme of this year's call is "Indigenous Rights".

Since the fellowship is designed for activists rather than scholars, there are no formal prerequisites. There are no age or citizenship requirements. The Fellowship is designed for people doing human rights work outside the United States. A U.S.-based candidate might be eligible if (a) his or her base of operations was in the U.S. while substantial work was done abroad, or (b) if she/he worked on an issue in the United States and other countries. The fellow must have a functional level of verbal ability in English.

Closing date 30 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 36,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://oakinstitute.colby.edu/>

Technical fellowships

The Union for International Cancer Control invites applications for its technical fellowships. These encourage the international exchange of knowledge and enhances skills in cancer control that can be applied in the fellows' home organisations upon their return. The aim is also to support the development of networks of cancer control professionals for the continued sharing of best practices and knowledge, and the informal provision of ongoing support, guidance or training. The following fellowship types are available:

- public health – dedicated to promoting, protecting and preserving good health in order to prevent premature death due to cancer, restore health and maximise the quality of life when health cannot be restored;
- research – for investigators performing translational cancer research that aims to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications that can enhance the health and wellbeing of cancer patients;
- clinical – for clinicians wishing to perform clinical cancer research or wishing to learn new techniques and skills by observing others.

Health workers and cancer professionals of any nationality and residing in any country may apply. They must hold a minimum of a master's degree. Registered nurses who have an RN qualification and established in oncology practice may also apply.

Closing date 31 December 2022

Award amount max USD 5,800

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.uicc.org/what-we-do/capacity-building/fellowships/technical-fellowships>

Fred W Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington

The Fred W Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington invites applications for its research fellowships. These support research focused on the life and leadership of George Washington and his place in the development of American civic life and culture. Projects may also address broad themes and historical problems of colonial America, the revolutionary era and the early republic as well as history of race, slavery, and abolition, history of the arts and material culture in the eighteenth century. Projects related to national memory, philanthropy and the history of historic preservation may also be supported through access to resources available in the archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Applications are open to doctoral candidates, recent PhDs, mid-career faculty as well as advanced scholars and independent researchers with relevant topics. The programme is open to US citizens and international scholars.

Closing date 31 December 2022

Award amount max USD 20,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/fellowships/fellows-program/>

Medical fellowships

The IBSA Foundation invites applications for its medical fellowships. These support investigators conducting medical research. The following fellowships are available:

- one fellowship in dermatology;
- one fellowship in endocrinology;
- one fellowship in fertility and urology;
- one fellowship in pain medicine, rheumatology or orthopaedics;
- one fellowship in regenerative medicine.

Applicants must be under 40 years of age on the application deadline. They must also have a degree in medicine, biology, pharmacy, biotechnology or bioengineering. They may be PhD students, postdoctoral researchers or residents of any nationality. For the duration of the fellowship, applicants must be active in the host institution, such as a university, hospital or research centre, whose primary goal is to independently conduct non-economic biomedical research and to disseminate its results.

Closing date 31 December 2022 (Forecast)

Award amount max €30,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.ibsafoundation.org/en/fellowships/call-2021>

Shorenstein Postdoctoral Fellowship on Contemporary Asia Stanford

Stanford University, under the Walter H Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, invites applications for the Shorenstein postdoctoral fellowships in contemporary Asia. These support junior scholars conducting research and writing on Asia. The primary research areas focus on political, economic, or social change in the Asia-Pacific region (including Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia), or on international relations and international political economy in the region. Postdoctoral fellows are required to be in residence for the duration of the appointment and to take part in Center activities throughout the academic year. Fellows are also required to present their research findings in Center seminars and to participate in the Center's publication program.

The fellowships are limited to recent PhDs: applicants cannot be more than three years past the awarding of their doctoral degree when the fellowship starts. They must have degree conferral and official approval/certification no later than June 30 prior to the fellowship start date (that is, no later than June 30, 2022, for 2022-23 fellowships starting in fall 2022).

Closing date 03 January 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 62,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://apar.c.fsi.stanford.edu/education/fellowship-and-training-opportunities/shorenstein-postdoctoral-fellowship>

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

BASED ON THE TRANSPARENT RESEARCH PERFORMANCE SCHEME - 2022

The University Research Council is pleased to call for applications for research excellence awards - 2022 based on transparent research performance scheme stipulated in the UGC circular 05/2018 from eligible permanent academic/administrative staff. The transparent research performance scheme operates on Hirsch Index (h-index) based scheme stipulated in the aforesaid circular.

The URC decided to recognize researchers belonging to academic and administrative staff categories of University of Peradeniya who have fulfilled the minimum requirements for the Tier 4* category.

The duly filled applications should be received by the URC on or before October 31. 2022.

The application form and the UGC circular can be
downloaded from:

<https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/index.html>

Research grants

Conservation, Food and Health Foundation Project grants

The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation invites concept applications for its project grants. These support projects in the developing world in the fields of conservation, food and health. Funding is available to projects that:

- demonstrate strong local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences;
- develop the capacity of local organisations;
- address a particular problem in the field.

NGOs are eligible to apply. Priority is given to organisations located in developing countries or to developed country organisations whose activities are of direct and immediate benefit to developing countries.

Closing date 01 January 2023

Award amount max USD 30,000

Country of applicant institution Sri Lanka included

Website <http://cfhfoundation.grantsmanagement08.com/>

Mitzi and William Blahd Pilot Research Grant

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, with sponsorship from the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, invites applications for the Mitzi and William Blahd pilot research grant. This supports basic or clinical scientists in the early stages of their career in conducting research in nuclear medicine or molecular imaging that may lead to further funding.

Basic or clinical scientists who hold an advanced degree such as an MD, PhD or equivalent, and who are members of the society, may apply. Applicants must hold a full-time position in an educational institution, and be no more than five years post training. Applicants must not have been PIs of a peer-reviewed grant worth more than USD 50,000 in a single calendar year. Preference is given to individuals who have demonstrated potential for a research career in the fields of nuclear medicine or molecular imaging and whose research focuses on translational in vivo studies that include radionuclide imaging or therapy. The research may be done in any country.

Closing date 02 January 2023

Award amount max USD 25,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.snmni.org/AboutSNMMI/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=24692>

Progeria Research Foundation grants

The Progeria Research Foundation invites proposals for its research grants. These support research to find the cause, treatment or cure for Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome. Projects must fall within one of the following research priorities:

- projects that are likely to lead to clinical treatment trials within five years;
- development of gene-, biomolecule-, drug- and cell-based therapies to treat progeria;
- assessment of natural history of disease that may lead to the development of outcome measures in treatment trials.

PIs must hold faculty appointments or equivalent at a tax-exempt institution.

Closing date 03 January 2023

Award amount max USD 150,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.progeriaresearch.org/application-deadlines/>

Research proposals on environmental and occupational health

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, under its national research programme for environmental and occupational health, invites letters of intent for its call for research proposals on environmental and occupational health. This supports projects focusing on the assessment and analysis of environmental risks to human health, in the general population and in the workplace, as well as on the risks for ecosystems and quality of the environment. Projects should focus on one of the following themes:

- physical agents – sound pollution, light pollution, non-ionising radiation;
- fibres and nanomaterials;
- cancer;
- chemical agents;
- biological agents;
- humanities and social sciences approaches to environmental and occupational health;
- environmental contamination;
- vectors, climate change and health management.

Research teams affiliated with any institution may apply. Collaborators who are not research-oriented are allowed, provided that the value they will add to the project is clearly established. Teams must comprise a French academic partner. International partnerships are accepted.

Proposals may be of two types:

- feasibility studies, worth up to €50,000 each over a maximum of two years;
- full projects, worth between €40,000 and €200,000 each over two to three years.

Closing date 06 January 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €200,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website;<https://www.anses.fr/fr/content/appel-%C3%A0-projets-de-recherche-du-pnr-est-sur-le-th%C3%A8me-%C2%AB-environnement-sant%C3%A9-travail->

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research small grants

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research invites applications for its small grant programme for new investigators (R03 clinical trial not allowed) funding opportunity. This AIDS-related opportunity supports basic and clinical research conducted by scientists who are in the early stages of establishing an independent research career in oral, dental and craniofacial research. The programme supports pilot or feasibility studies and developmental research projects with the intention of obtaining sufficient preliminary data for a subsequent NIH investigator initiated research project grant or equivalent application. New investigators at US and foreign for-profit and non-profit organisations and public and private organisations may apply.

Closing date 07 January 2023

Award amount max USD 200,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-084.html>

Insight development grant

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada invites applications for its insight development grants. These support the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches or ideas within the humanities or social sciences. Funding is for short-term research development projects, including case studies, pilot initiatives and critical analyses of existing research. Funding is available in the following categories:

- emerging scholars;
- established scholars – research distinct from the applicant's previous work.

Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams of researchers. They must be affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution or formally establish an affiliation with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution within three months of the funding date. Applicants must have received their PhD before the funding date. Researchers based at international postsecondary institutions may participate as co-applicants.

Closing date 02 February 2023

Award amount max CAD 7,000 - 75,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/in-sight_development_grants-subventions_de_developpement_savoir-eng.aspx

Research project grant

The Swedish Research Council invites applications for its research project grant within humanities and social sciences. This enables researchers to undertake a research project related to the humanities and social sciences. The purpose of the grant is to give researchers the freedom to formulate a research concept, method and implementation, and to solve a specific research task within a limited period.

Applicants must be individual researchers that have a Swedish doctoral degree or and equivalent foreign degree. The project leader must be employed by the administrating organisation at the start and throughout the grant period and the employment must equal at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. The grant must be administrated by a Swedish university, HEI or another Swedish organisation that fulfils the council's administrating criteria. Up to six additional participating researchers may be involved in the project, they must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent competence but they do not have to be employed by a Swedish HEI.

Closing date 15 March 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max SEK 400,000 - 6,800,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/calls/2021-11-17-research-project-grant-within-humanities-and-social-sciences.html>

Innovative technology experiences for students and teachers

The National Science Foundation's Directorate for Education and Human Resources invites proposals for its innovative technology experiences for students and teachers programme. This supports foundational and applied research projects aiming to advance the equitable and inclusive integration of technology in the learning and teaching of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) from pre-kindergarten through high school. The following three pillars must be presented in all proposals:

- innovative use of technologies in learning and teaching;
- partnerships for career and workforce preparation;
- strategies for equity in STEM education.

Foreign organisations may apply provided they do so 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 11 August 2023

Award amount max USD 5,000,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/innovative-technology-experiences-students>

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



Travel grants

Research and training grant

The Federation of European Microbiological Societies invites applications for its research and training grant. This supports early-career scientists in pursuing research and training at a European host institution.

Applicants active in microbiology may apply. Applicants must be FEMS members, having obtained their highest degree less than five years prior to the application deadline, or be a PhD student. Research and training visits must be conducted in a European country other than the fellow's country of residence.

Closing date 01 January 2023

Award amount max €4,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website https://fems-microbiology.org/about_fems/network-and-activities/grants/fems-research-grants/

Travel grants

The World Parkinson Coalition invites applications for its travel grants. These support junior scholars, health professional and people living with Parkinson's in attending the world Parkinson congress, to be held from 4 to 7 July 2023 in Barcelona.

Junior researchers and clinicians, people with Parkinson's, health professional from developing countries and Edmond J Safra nurse scholars may apply.

Closing date 13 January 2023

Award amount max USD 1,300

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://wpc2023.org/page/TravelGrants>

Research travel grants

The Terra Foundation for American Art, in partnership with the College Art Association, invites applications for its research travel grants. These enable scholars from both the US and outside the US to pursue research on topics concerning American art and visual culture prior to 1980. The foundation prioritizes projects that interrogate and broaden definitions of American art and lends support for projects engaged in transforming or complicating how the story of American art is told.

For travel to the US, applicants must be doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, and senior scholars enrolled in or working at universities located outside the US or independent scholars with a PhD residing outside of the US. For international travel, applicants must be doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, and senior scholars enrolled in or working at universities located in the US or independent scholars with a PhD residing in the US.

Closing date 15 January 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 9,000

Country of applicant institution Sri Lanka included

Website <https://www.collegeart.org/programs/support-grants/terra-research>

Art history fund for travel to special exhibitions

The College Art Association invites applications for its art history fund for travel to special exhibitions. This supports a postgraduate or undergraduate art history class and their instructor in travelling to attend a temporary special exhibition at a museum anywhere in the world. Exhibitions on any artist, period or area of art history are eligible.

Classes must be given at an institution with current institutional membership and the instructor must be a current individual member of the association. Classes may contain no more than 15 students.

Closing date 15 January 2023

Award amount max USD 10,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Website <https://www.collegeart.org/programs/support-grants/art-history-travel-fund>

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<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-DzIDtWAQnn
- 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>

Transparent Research performance Scheme to Recognize Researchers in the University System

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in Dec. 2018 issued a circular to introduce a transparent Hirsch Index (h-index) based scheme to recognize research performance and rank researchers within 5 tiers. The UGC was also of the view that this scheme would be complimentary to the research allowance which was already being paid to the academic staff and in turn would encourage research and development.

This transparent research performance scheme will place each researcher in one of five tiers, 1 to 4 and tier 4*, and expect them to advance through the tiers. The placement is based on the h-index as reported by Google Scholar, over the researcher's career. The h-index measures both productivity and impact of the published work of the researcher in a transparent manner.

This process for the transparent research performance scheme was 8 years in the making, having started in 2010. I was first commissioned by the NSF to come up with a scheme to pay enhanced salaries to scientists based on a transparent system. Although this system was formulated within 6 months, through a committee comprising of eminent scientists, it went nowhere. A few years later, the Ministry of Science and Technology appointed Prof. Malik Ranasinghe and I to head a committee to propose a scheme to enhance the salaries of the officers of the Ministry. After some discussion, we both agreed to present the same scheme that I had presented to the NSF. However, the proposal received a very lukewarm reception by the scientists of the Ministry.

Finally, when Professor Malik Ranasinghe was serving as a Commission Member of the UGC, over a period of one year, in 2017, this proposal saw the light of day and finally became an official circular in 2018. In this current form, importantly, architecture, art, design, fine arts, humanities, social sciences, and management have been included making the document all encompassing (Table 1).

Currently, only University of Peradeniya has embraced the circular by recognizing the Tier 4* researchers. While this is a praiseworthy endeavor, the spirit of the circular is to provide a road map for scientific progress of the young academics between 30 to 40 years of age, the future of any university. Their progress can be monitored through the increase of their h-index over the years. At each milestone in the career, from confirmation to becoming a professor, the universities can have a better understanding of the progress they have made in research.

Therefore, each university can adopt this circular to suit their individual needs. If this was explained better to the senior academics at the outset, about the circular being not be very important to those who are already professors, the reluctance to put the circular to practice by them (who are generally in decision making role in any university) may not have become a hurdle to embrace the

system. One of the critical pillars of global rankings of all universities is research output. Research excellence by universities can only be achieved through monitoring and recognizing research output by their academics. “Publish or perish” is not just a cliché when it is applied to universities, it is the reason for their existence.

Table 1: Minimum h-index values to qualify to a tier

Faculties/Disciplines	Minimum h-index values to qualify				
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 4*
Indigenous Medicine, Medical and Dental Sciences	0	2	7	13	20
Pure Sciences except Mathematics	0	2	6	11	17
Agriculture, Allied Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, Engineering,, IT and Computing, Quantity Surveying, Veterinary Sciences	0	2	5	9	14
Architecture, Art, Design, Fine Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, Law, Management, Mathematics, Town and Country Planning	0	1	4	7	11

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne
 Senior Professor
 Department of Chemistry
 University of Peradeniya
 Sri Lanka

Looking forward to your contributions to the November edition

Email:
secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk

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ADDRESS:

A6 Buiding, University of Peradeniya,
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EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Prof. Janaka B. Ekanayake

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Dr. HDWT Damayanthi
Director/ URC

GRAPIC DESIGN & LAYOUT:

Ms. Nadeesha Pananwala
Secretary/ URC

