

September 2024, volume 4 issue V

RESEARCH@



2024

URC E-NEWSLETTER

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University of Peradeniya

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The University Research Council has traditionally published its newsletter on a monthly basis, primarily focused on sharing available funding opportunities with our academic community. However, we have recognized that limiting the content to funding announcements does not fully align with the broader mission of this publication.



As part of our commitment to enhancing the value and relevance of the newsletter, we are excited to introduce several new features starting with this edition. In addition to funding opportunities, the newsletter will now include feature articles on cutting-edge research, a summary of ongoing projects across the university, and other valuable resources to support your research endeavors.

To ensure a higher standard of content and provide more in-depth information, we have also decided to shift the publication frequency from monthly to quarterly. This change will allow us to curate a richer and more comprehensive newsletter, designed to better serve the needs of our research community.

We look forward to your feedback and contributions as we continue to evolve and improve this important communication channel.

Prof. Janaka Ekanayake

BScEng(Hons), PhD, FIEEE (USA), FIET (UK), FNAS (SL), FIESL, CEng

Senior Professor and Chair of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Director, University Research Council

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION

28th & 29th August 2024

Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

The University of Peradeniya has a longstanding tradition of disseminating its cutting-edge research through its flagship initiative, the Peradeniya University Research Sessions (PURSE), established in 1996. Over the years, PURSE has evolved, and in 2014, it was elevated to the Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE), expanding its scope to include international participants. In 2022, as a flagship project of the University Research Council, we introduced the Peradeniya University Research Exhibition Showcase (PURES).

Recognizing the evolving academic landscape, with its myriad publication opportunities and the increased emphasis on interdisciplinary research, we have redefined the purpose and format of our research dissemination and showcase events. This year, we formally merged iPURSE with PURES. Although the event continues to be referred to as iPURSE, its full name has been updated to "The Peradeniya University International Research Symposium and Exposition."

Objectives of iPURSE-2024:

- **Enhanced Visibility and Branding:** The event aimed to provide a coordinated platform to amplify the university's research output and attract wider participation from both local and international academics.
- **Promotion of Cross-disciplinary Synergies:** iPURSE facilitated the convergence of diverse research areas, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and promoting knowledge exchange between different fields of study.
- **Streamlined Resource Allocation:** By consolidating resources, iPURSE optimized logistical arrangements, ensuring cost-effectiveness and a smoother execution of the event.
- **Showcasing Breadth and Depth of Research:** A consolidated exhibition and presentations offered a comprehensive overview of the university's diverse research endeavors, highlighting both fundamental and applied research.
- **Facilitating Public Engagement:** iPURES attracted not only academics but also the general public, potential industry partners, and stakeholders, thus fostering knowledge transfer and showcasing the real-world applications of research.
- **Raising the University's Profile:** A large-scale research symposium boosted the university's reputation on a global scale, attracting talented researchers, students, and industry collaborators.



PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION

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Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

Participation and Themes:

For iPURSE-2024, we received over 400 abstracts and 50 exhibits. Following a rigorous review process, more than 300 papers were selected for presentation across four carefully chosen sub-themes:

- Food Security and Environmental Stewardship
- Equitable and Inclusive Development
- Embracing Innovation and Resilience
- Weaving Technology for Sustainability and Wellbeing

Of the selected papers, 280 were presented in 21 parallel sessions, offering in-depth discussions and opportunities for collaboration across the research community.

Celebrating Excellence:

iPURSE also serves as a platform to recognize researchers who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in their research endeavors. This year, the prestigious Lakshman Samaranayake Award was presented to three distinguished researchers from the Faculty of Allied Health, the Faculty of Management, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. These awardees were recognized for their outstanding achievements in securing competitive external research funding, publishing in high-impact journals, patenting innovations, successfully completing research projects, and making significant citation impacts in their respective fields.

Additionally, Tier 4 researchers* were recognized for their exemplary contributions to high-end research during this esteemed event.

New Award Schemes:

This year, the University Research Council (URC) introduced two new award schemes:

- The first acknowledges researchers who have produced notable research outputs and outcomes in 2023.
- The second honors those who have successfully secured research funding from various national and international funding bodies.

These new award schemes aim to further encourage research excellence and celebrate the achievements of our dedicated academic community.



PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION

28th & 29th August 2024

Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

Proceedings and Feedback:

The updated iPURSE proceedings are now available for download at:

<https://site.pdn.ac.lk/ipurse/2024/index.html>

Proceedings and Feedback: The updated iPURSE proceedings are now available for download at:

<https://forms.gle/xSnavrijHPtmh3Sp6>

A banner for the iPURSE 2024 event. It features a yellow background with a dark red border. On the left is the University of Peradeniya seal. In the center is the iPURSE 2024 logo. Below the logo is the text 'PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION'. At the bottom left is a lion statue. At the bottom right is a list of sub-themes. The text 'A Resilient and Sustainable Sri Lanka: Weaving Together Diverse Threads' is written in a script font across the middle.

 **iPURSE 2024**
**PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION**

"A Resilient and Sustainable Sri Lanka: Weaving Together Diverse Threads"

Sub-themes

- Food Security and Environmental Stewardship
- Equitable and Inclusive Development
- Embracing Innovation and Resilience
- Weaving Technology for Sustainability and Wellbeing

University Research Council
University of Peradeniya





Prof. Lakshman Samaranayake Research Excellence Award 2023

- Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara
- Prof. Dilan Satharasinghe
- Prof. E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake

Recognition Award 2023 - iPURSE 2024

- Dr. D.S. Thilakarathne
- Prof. A.M.A.C.S. Bandara
- Prof. P. Bandaranayake
- Dr. W.M.T.P. Ariyaratne
- Prof. I.B. Gawarammana
- Dr. S.A. Weerasooriya
- Prof. S.P. Nissanka

Tier 4* Research Awards 2024 - iPURSE 2024

- Prof. F. Noordeen
- Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles
- Prof. I.B. Gawarammana
- Prof. K.G.N. Nanayakkara
- Dr. M.C.M. Nasvi
- Prof. H.M.V.G. Herath
- Prof. P. Bandaranayake
- Prof. N.D.K. Dayawansa
- Prof. K.M.G.G. Jayasuriya
- Prof. S.Y. Ekanayake
- Prof. R.D. Jayasinghe

URC Research Awards 2023 - iPURSE 2024

- Prof. J. Weerahewa
- Prof. P. Bandaranayake
- Prof. Terrence Madhujith
- Dr. S.A. Weerasooriya
- Prof. S.P. Nissanka
- Prof. Buddhi Marambe
- Prof. Pradeepa Silva
- Dr. Bimali S. Weerakoon
- Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara
- Prof. B.M.L.D.B. Suriyagoda
- Prof. R.D. Jayasinghe
- Dr. K.G. Thilakarathne
- Prof. A.M.A.C.S. Bandara
- Dr. J. A. S. C. Jayasinghe
- Dr. J.H.A.D. S. Buddika
- Prof. I.B. Gawarammana
- Prof. F. Noordeen
- Prof. D. Yakandawala
- Prof. Rohana Chandrajith
- Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna

RESEARCH GRANTS

ANSTO/ANZSNM research grant

This supports research in any area of nuclear medicine in Australia and New Zealand. All aspects of nuclear medicine are considered, including novel developments in radiopharmaceuticals, hardware and software innovation, epidemiology and audit activities, pilot clinical trials, retrospective studies on outcomes in diagnostics and therapeutic procedures in nuclear medicine, and education, training and professional development activities.

Closing date 16 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max AUD 20,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.anzsnm.org.au/index.cfm//members-centre/anstoanzsnm-research-grant/2023-research-grant/>

Research Grants for Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia and Primary Lateral Sclerosis Studies

The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) was created in 2002 as a non-profit health organization. Our goals are:

to fund research into the causes, therapies, and cures for hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) and primary lateral sclerosis (PLS),

to provide educational materials, conferences and gatherings for people affected by these disorders, and

to foster support among the patients and families affected by these disorders.

Our goal will be reached when all those with HSP and PLS are diagnosed, treated, and cured. With our research grant program, we strive to help make that day a reality.

Research grants may provide “seed monies” to assist investigators with new ideas, early or pilot phases of studies, or as supplemental support in ongoing investigations. We anticipate that early studies funded by the SPF will develop into projects that can successfully attract future funding from other sources.

Closing date 18 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 150,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://sp-foundation.org/research/submit-proposal.html>

Effectiveness and Implementation Trials to Address Mental Health in Type 1 Diabetes

JDRF aims to support the implementation and integration of evidence based T1D specific behavioral and psychosocial interventions into clinical practice. Therefore, JDRF solicits applications for studies and clinical trials designed to test psychosocial treatment and preventive interventions for which there is already evidence of efficacy, for use in community and practice settings.

This RFA will support clinical trials of interventions that already have feasibility, acceptability and efficacy data and are ready to go onto effectiveness and implementation trials. Projects may also only have feasibility and acceptability data and seek to utilize novel trial protocols with hybrid designs with emphasis on effectiveness and implementation outcomes.

Applications might include research to evaluate the effectiveness or increase the clinical impact of behavioral and psychosocial interventions to prevent or treat diabetes distress, anxiety, depression and/or disordered eating in T1D. Projects around provider-, organizational-, or systems-level interventions to improve access, continuity, and quality will also be considered.

Closing date 18 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 1,500,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.breakthrought1d.org/explore-research/funding-opportunities/>

Unlock Funding for Digital Supply Chain Innovation

The Made Smarter Innovation Digital Supply Chain Hub seeks companies interested in developing and deploying digital technology in their testbeds. For this innovation competition, the Digital Supply Chain Hub is seeking companies that are interested in developing and deploying digital technology solutions in the DSCH testbeds.

The Digital Supply Chain Testbeds were commissioned to provide multi-tier supply chain environments in which innovative digital solutions can be developed, tested and demonstrated. A key aspect is allowing the demonstration of value, with the ambition of driving adoption of digital solutions.

Together with the testbed companies, we have identified seven potential challenge areas. Each challenge comes with £100,000 available for a tech solution provider to work with an Industry Challenge Sponsor to address critical supply-chain challenges; and develop a solution which will be deployed into one of the testbeds. The potential challenge areas are:

1. Standardised Naming System for Automotive Spare Parts
2. Project Finance & Market Modelling in the Emerging Hydrogen Supply Chain
3. Digital Product Passport for the Textile Supply Chain
4. Connected Life Cycle Assessment in the Textile Supply Chain
5. Logistics pricing engine in the Textile Supply Chain
6. Data driven best before date in the Food Supply Chain
7. A Marketplace for Investment in Sustainable Farming

Closing date 22 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max £100,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/opportunities/unlock-funding-for-digital-supply-chain-innovation/>

Small Grants Programme - Auckland Zoo, NZ

These support ongoing projects or pilot programmes with clear conservation value.

Auckland Zoo is supporting innovative conservation initiatives for Aotearoa New Zealand's most endangered species. The focus of this round is the coastal zone where the ocean interacts with land – this dynamic and diverse environment presents unique challenges to both the wildlife which calls it home and to those committed to protecting it.

Closing date 30 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max NZD 5,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/get-involved/small-grants-programme>

Biodiversity on arable land

The call is intended to promote projects that strengthen biodiversity on arable land. Ecological intensification, forage harvest and ground-nesting birds, and production of domestic meadow seeds are the main areas of focus. Each project should have a budget of at least SEK 2 million.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max SEK 2,000,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://jordbruksverket.se/stod/utlysningar-och-upphandlingar/biologisk-mangfald-pa-akermark>

Biodiversity on arable land

The call is intended to promote projects that strengthen biodiversity on arable land. Ecological intensification, forage harvest and ground-nesting birds, and production of domestic meadow seeds are the main areas of focus. Each project should have a budget of at least SEK 2 million.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max SEK 2,000,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://jordbruksverket.se/stod/utlysningar-och-upphandlingar/biologisk-mangfald-pa-akermark>

Technologies and Informatics Tools for Cancer Metabolomics

This Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is to alert the community that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is seeking to support development of innovative technologies and informatics tools for metabolomics research by leveraging ongoing programs. Innovative technologies for cancer metabolomics can be supported through the Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) program and informatics tools for cancer metabolomics can be supported through the Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR) program.

Specific Areas of Research Interest:

Both IMAT and ITCR support projects across the continuum of basic-translational-clinical cancer research.

- Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT)
- Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR)

Issued by :

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Closing date 31 December 2024

Award amount max USD 600,000

Award amount min USD 150,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-22-083.html>

Scientific Research Grant Program

The purpose of these grants is to promote:

- New biomedical research into the etiology, genetic and molecular mechanisms and treatment of CHARGE syndrome, or
- New research into clinical and medical diagnosis and treatment of CHARGE syndrome.

Proposals may be in any area of basic, clinical, translational or epidemiological research.

Preference will be given to investigators who are new to CHARGE research and/or to new projects with clear potential to lead to future funding from other agencies.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.chargesyndrome.org/overview/research/foundation-supported-research/>

Large Research Grants on Education Program

The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived.

This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. Our goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

Closing date 24 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 500,000

Award amount min USD 125,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

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

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Notre Dame Fellowship

For over thirty years, the Centre has welcomed researchers from around the world to spend time in residence at Notre Dame. In that period, over 250 scholars working in philosophy, theology, religious studies, other humanities fields, and even the social sciences have pursued cutting-edge research using the vast resources of this institution. Residential fellows research, write, discuss works-in-progress, participate in exciting media initiatives, and enjoy vibrant community life while at Notre Dame.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 75,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://philreligion.nd.edu/fellowships/apply/>

Research Fellowship Awards

The purpose is to support the final year of research training in a pediatric endocrinology fellowship for highly qualified individuals preparing for a career in academic pediatric endocrinology. Both clinical and basic research projects are eligible for support.

Closing date 16 December 2024

Award amount max USD 30,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://pedsendo.org/award/research-fellowship-awards/>

Postdoctoral fellowships

In line with its mission to encourage young scientists to focus their work on research into paraplegia, IRP invites them to submit their application for an IRP Postdoctoral Fellowship. Funding will be allocated to a young Swiss researcher wanting to study overseas or to a young overseas researcher wanting to pursue his/her academic career in Switzerland.

Subsidies are of the following types:

- 1.A fellowship for up to 2 years in an outstanding basic research laboratory specialised in one or several aspects of CNS and spinal cord lesions and repair, preferentially in mammals. A 3rd year may be attributed to a fellow who returns to Switzerland from abroad.
- 2.A 1 year fellowship in a clinical research laboratory situated in the fields of diagnosis and acute lesion management of spinal cord injury, including surgery, neurology, urology, rehabilitation, and other areas related to paraplegia.

At the end of the training, IRP post-doctoral fellows who want to set up a laboratory of research in Switzerland might be invited to apply to the IRP Foundation for a contribution towards the purchase of laboratory equipment.

Closing date 20 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max CHF 80,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.irp.ch/irp-post-doctoral-fellowship/>

N.S. Bienstock Fellowship

An award established in 1999 by Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper, the original owners of N.S. Bienstock. Acquired by United Talent Agency in 2014, the firm now known as Bienstock, a UTA Company has been a leading talent agency in news and reality-based programming for more than 50 years and is a long-time member of RTDNA.

Closing date 21 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 2,500

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.rtdna.org/scholarships-and-fellowships#nsbienstock>

Geoff Carr Lupus Fellowship

The annual Fellowship is designed to provide advanced training to a rheumatologist specializing in lupus at an Ontario Lupus Clinic. The Lupus Fellow will follow patients at an accredited lupus clinic, supervise patient care and education, and become involved in clinical research.

Closing date 22 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount CAD 72,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://arthritis.ca/researchers/research-programs-awards/current-funding-opportunities>

TIAS society of fellows

The Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) in Humanities and Social Sciences invites applications for its society of fellows programme. This enables early-career scholars in the humanities and social sciences to conduct full-time research at Tsinghua University, China for three-year terms.

Seminars, reading groups, workshops, and lectures will be organised regularly for formal and informal discussions. Fellows in the society engage in innovative and productive research and contribute to intellectual exchange within the university community and beyond.

Closing date 25 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max CNY 1,026,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

https://www.h-net.org/jobs/job_display.php?id=66375

Schöller Fellowship

The Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) in Humanities and Social Sciences invites applications for its society of fellows programme. This enables early-career scholars in the humanities and social sciences to conduct full-time research at Tsinghua University, China for three-year terms.

Seminars, reading groups, workshops, and lectures will be organised regularly for formal and informal discussions. Fellows in the society engage in innovative and productive research and contribute to intellectual exchange within the university community and beyond.

Closing date 25 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount max CNY 1,026,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.schoeller-forschungszentrum.de/en/info-fellowships/>

Research Fellowships

Spend 1, 3, or 6 months as a research fellow at the George Washington Library, located at George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Deadline Information

Award amount max USD 20,000

Award amount min USD 3,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

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

Herman Goldstine Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences

The IBM Research Mathematical Sciences Council invites applications for its 2024–2025 Herman Goldstine Memorial Postdoctoral Fellowship for research in mathematical and computer sciences. The fellowship provides scientists of outstanding ability an opportunity to advance their scholarship as resident department members at one of the IBM Research laboratories. The main hub of mathematical sciences activities in IBM Research is at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Westchester County, less than an hour north of New York City. Mathematical sciences research is also pursued at many of our global lab locations around the world.

IBM Research provides an atmosphere in which basic research is combined with work on practical applications. Our permanent members, academic visitors, and post-doctoral fellows pursue research in pure and applied mathematics and in theoretical and exploratory computer science. Areas of research include: algorithms, information theory, artificial intelligence and machine learning, automated theorem proving and program synthesis, algorithmic game theory, numerical analysis and scientific computing, dynamical systems, stochastic optimal control, inverse problems, optimization, operations research, applied probability, and statistics. Close interaction with permanent department members is expected and encouraged, but fellows are free to pursue their own research interests.

Closing date 31 December 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 150,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://research.ibm.com/goldstine/>

James Marshall Public Policy Fellowship

The SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Fellowship trains early career scientists to 1) contribute to the effective use of scientific knowledge about social issues in the formation of public policy at the federal level; 2) educate the scientific community about how research can contribute to the development of public policy; and 3) establish a more effective liaison between social scientists and various policymaking mechanisms.

Closing date 02 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 64,200

Award amount min USD 60,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=747>

Clements Center Research Fellowships for the Study of Southwestern America

The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies welcomes applications for its four residential research fellowships, which provide junior and senior scholars with an essential element for producing successful books: time. As Pauline Yu, former President of the American Council of Learned Societies, once explained: "Scholars need time to write. In the humanities the expression of the idea is the source of its power, and crafting that expression is essential to the process of research."

The fellowships are expressly designed to provide time for junior and senior scholars to bring their book-length projects to completion, and as such do not include any teaching responsibilities or obligations. Please note that our fellowships cannot be used to finish a dissertation or to begin a new book project.

Available fellowships:

- The Bill & Rita Clements Senior Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, funded by an anonymous donor in memory of Bill & Rita Clements, supports work on Texas, the Southwest, or the U.S.-Mexico borderlands by an established scholar developing a second (or third &c.) book.
- The David J. Weber Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, funded by the late Bill & Rita Clements as well as an anonymous donor in memory of David J. Weber, supports work on Texas, the Southwest, or the U.S.-Mexico borderlands by a scholar developing a first book.
- The Bill & Rita Clements Fellowships for the Study of Southwestern America, funded by the late Bill & Rita Clements as well as the late Louis Beecherl, support work on Texas, the Southwest, or the U.S.-Mexico borderlands by two scholars developing first books.

Closing date 08 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 65,000

Award amount min USD 50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.smu.edu/dedman/research/institutes-and-centers/swcenter/fellowships>

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

Scholars in any field of inquiry in the humanities or humanistic social sciences – broadly conceived – are invited to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship, made possible through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Wesleyan University.

The purpose of this Fellowship is to provide scholars who have recently completed their Ph.D.s with free time to further their own work in a cross-disciplinary setting, and to associate them with a distinguished faculty.

A Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow will teach a one-semester undergraduate course; participate in the collegial life of the Center for the Humanities, which sponsors conferences, lectures, and colloquia; and give one public lecture.

Closing date 08 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 67,500

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://www.wesleyan.edu/humanities/fellowships/mellon.html>

Environmental Fellows Program

HUCE created the Environmental Fellows program to enable recent doctorate recipients to use and expand Harvard's extraordinary resources to tackle complex environmental issues. Fellows work for two years with Harvard faculty members in any school or department to form a community of researchers that strengthens connections across the University.

Closing date 10 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 90,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://environment.harvard.edu/environmental-fellows-program>

Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Postdoctoral Fellowship program invests in future leaders in academia—political scientists, anthropologists, historians, and humanists, among others—who generate big ideas that spark new conversations and deep insights about the region.

The Davis Center will award one Postdoctoral Fellowship in Literature and Culture. Research proposals on topics related to the literature and culture of Russia or Eurasia are welcome.

Closing date 18 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 47,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/academic-programs/postgraduate-opportunities/postdoctoral-fellowships>

NEC fellowships

This is the core program, which awards Fellowships to scholars working on projects in all fields of the humanities and social sciences.

Due to funding considerations, this program has been divided into two: International Fellowships, granted with the financial support of NEC's institutional sponsors, and the Ștefan Odobleja Fellowships, targeting Romanian researchers, with financial support from UEFISCDI (The Romanian Executive Agency for Funding Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation).

Closing date 18 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max €8,500

Award amount min €4,250

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

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

Mihaychuk Research Fellowships

Scholars from around the world come to Harvard for focused research on projects in Ukrainian history, literature, philology, and related areas of study. Fellows also participate in the scholarly life of the University and offer a formal presentation.

Jaroslav and Nadia Mihaychuk Postdoctoral Fellowships in Ukrainian Studies are granted to promising early-career postdoctoral scholars carrying out independent research on topics pertaining to Ukraine.

Closing date 25 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 49,500

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://huri.harvard.edu/mihaychuk-postdoc-fellowships>

Jen Higgins Grant for Young Women

The Jen Higgins Fund was established in 1997 "to promote alpine-related outdoor pursuits for young women." The project should provide an opportunity for the development of young women in the outdoors, either through experience or mentorship.

Closing date 31 January 2025 (Forecast)

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://blog.alpineclubofcanada.ca/blog/2020/11/25/the-jen-higgins-grant-for-young-women-apply-today>

Visiting Fellowships

Houghton Library supports research opening new perspectives on its collections.

The Visiting Fellowship program offers scholars at all stages of their careers funding to pursue projects that require in-depth research on the library's holdings, as well as opportunities to draw on staff expertise and participate in intellectual life at Harvard.

The research topics of recent fellows speak to the breadth and depth of Houghton's holdings, ranging from colonial-era Native American music to the collecting of Sanskrit manuscripts, and Iberian chivalric romances to celebrity pregnancy on the London stage.

Fellowships to be Awarded:

- Beatrice, Benjamin, and Richard Bader Fellowship in the Visual Arts of the Theatre
- W. Jackson Bate/ Douglas W. Bryant, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship; Successful applicants must either be an ASECS member in good standing or be willing to become a member in order to receive this fellowship.
- José María Castañé Fellowship in 20th-century History
- Maryette Charlton Fellowship for the Performing Arts; This fellowship is available to assist scholarly research on gender and sexuality in the performing arts.
- William Dearborn Fellowship in American History
- Rodney G. Dennis Fellowship in the Study of Manuscripts
- The Ralph Waldo Emerson Fellowship
- Eleanor M. Garvey Fellowship in Printing and Graphic Arts
- Houghton Mifflin Fellowship in Publishing History
- Donald and Mary Hyde Fellowship for Research in Early Modern Black Lives, including Africa and the African Diaspora, 1500-1800
- Donald and Mary Hyde Fellowship for the Study of Dr. Samuel Johnson and his Circle
- Joan Nordell Fellowship
- Katharine F. Pantzer Jr. Fellowship in Descriptive Bibliography; This fellowship carries a stipend of \$4,500 per month, up to twelve months (maximum \$43,200). Fellows are expected to be in residence at Houghton Library for the duration of the fellowship.
- The Theodore Roosevelt Association Fellowship for the Study of the Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt
- Howard D. Rothschild Fellowship in Dance
- Robert Gould Shaw Fellowship for the Harvard Theatre Collection
- John M. Ward Fellowship in Dance and Music for the Theatre

Closing date 19 January 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 43,200

Award amount min USD 4,500

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

<https://library.harvard.edu/grants-fellowships/houghton-library-visiting-fellowships>

Analysis

Understanding Our THE Ranking Decline?

01. Introduction

Times Higher Education (THE) rankings have become a pivotal barometer for measuring a university's global standing. These rankings, which evaluate institutions based on a range of criteria including research output, teaching quality, citations, international outlook, and industry income, profoundly influence a university's reputation and attractiveness.

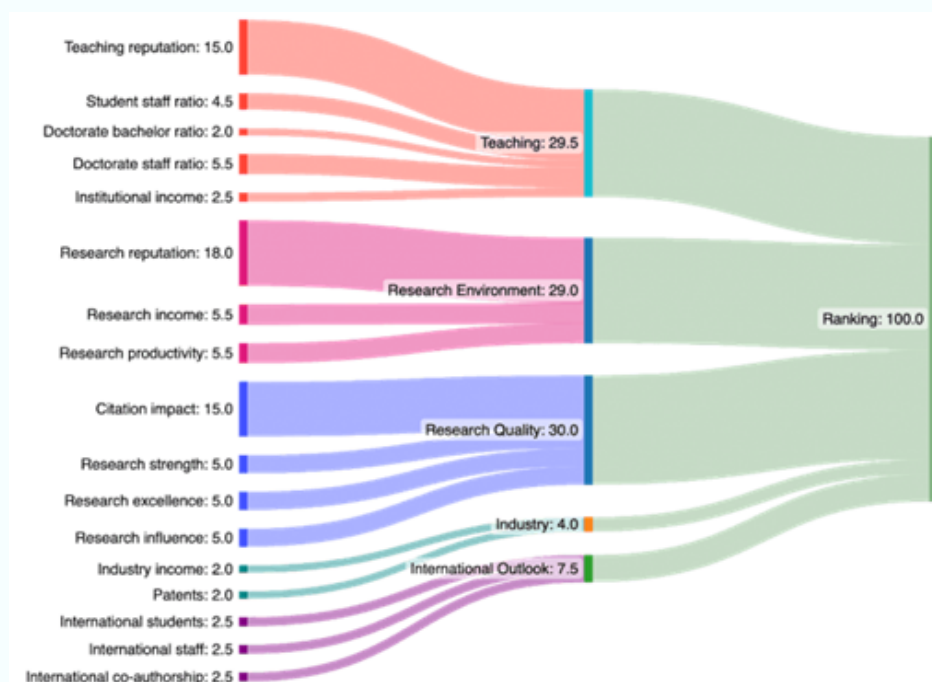
Key Reasons for the Significance of THE Rankings:

- THE is a widely respected publication in the higher education sector. Students, faculty, policymakers, and industry leaders worldwide recognize and follow its rankings. A high ranking in THE can significantly enhance a university's visibility and prestige.
- A strong THE ranking can increase a university's chances of securing research grants and funding from government agencies, foundations, and corporations. It can also facilitate collaborations with other leading institutions, fostering knowledge exchange and innovation.
- A high THE ranking can be valuable for a university's branding and marketing efforts. It can be used to enhance the institution's reputation, attract media attention, and position itself as a global leader in higher education.
- In addition to the overall world rankings, THE also publishes rankings for specific regions and countries. This can be particularly important for universities seeking to establish a strong presence in particular markets or regions.

02. Decoding the THE Ranking Methodology

2.1 Overview of THE Methodology

THE ranking is based on several pillars as shown in Figure 1. As can be seen, the Research pillars take up to 59% out of 100.



2.2 Research Pillars Breakdown

The following are the research pillars used in the 2024 ranking methodology:

Research Environment (out of 29)

- **Research Reputation (out of 18 marks)** - The most recent Academic Reputation Survey that runs annually. It examined the perceived prestige of institutions in research. This metric is the total number of votes obtained from the reputation survey over the last two years. Each year is calculated as the number of global research votes from respondents of the reputation survey, weighted by subject and country to be representative of the distribution of academics globally.
- **Research Income (out of 5.5)** - This metric is generated by dividing the total subject weighted research income adjusted for PPP, by the total subject weighted number of academic staff and is normalised after calculation. This indicator takes account of each institution's distinct subject profile, reflecting the fact that research grants in science subjects are often bigger than those awarded for the highest-quality social science, arts, and humanities research
- **Research Productivity (out of 5.5)** - This metric is generated by dividing the total subject weighted number of papers published in the academic journals indexed by Elsevier's Scopus database per scholar, divided by the sum of the total subject weighted number of FTE research staff and FTE academic staff. This metric is normalised after calculation.

Research Quality (out of 30)

- **Citation Impact (out of 15)** - THE research influence metric looks at universities' role in spreading new knowledge and ideas. It examines research influence by capturing the average number of times a university's published work is cited by scholars globally. For 2024 ranking, THE look at the academic journals indexed by Elsevier's Scopus database and all indexed publications between 2018 and 2022. Citations to these publications made in the six years from 2018 to 2023 are also collected. The data is normalised by Elsevier to reflect variations in citation volume between different subject areas.
- **Research Strength (out of 5)** - THE research strength metric measures the representative research quality based on the FWCI, but without being skewed by papers with an exceptionally high Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)[1]. It captures the 75th percentile of the FWCI of all papers published by a university. THE looks at all Scopus-indexed publications between 2018 and 2022 and the corresponding citations to these publications made in the six years from 2018 to 2023 are also collected.
- **Research Excellence (out of 5)** - This metric recognises the institution's contribution to the best research in each subject and overall. Excellence is measured by capturing the total number of publications by an institution that are among the top 10% of publications worldwide by FWCI. THE adjusts this number by year, subject, and the total number of academic and research staff.
- **Research Influence (out of 5)** - This metric analyses the influence of an entity's publications by analysing their corresponding citations. The importance of a publication is determined based on the importance of other papers citing it. We adjust this number by year, subject, and the total number of academic and research staff.

03. Our Performance from 2022 to 2024

Figures 2(a), (b), and (c) show our Rank in THE World Ranking in the years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Rank	Name Country/Region	Overall	Teaching	Research Environment	Research Quality	Industry	International Outlook
1001–1200	University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	28.3–32.6	18.4	9.2	58.6	23.3	39.8

Figure 2(a): 2024 Ranking

The FWCI score of a publication indicates how the number of citations received by the publication compares with the average number of citations received by all other similar publications.

Rank	Name Country/Region	Overall	Teaching	Research	Citations	Industry Income	International Outlook
501–600	University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	39.3–42.0	17.3	8.9	99.2	39.1	40.3

Figure 2(b): 2023 Ranking

Rank	Name Country/Region	Overall	Teaching	Research	Citations	Industry Income	International Outlook
401–500	University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	40.9–44.0	17.4	8.4	100.0	35.6	41.3

Figure 2(c): 2022 Ranking

The University of Peradeniya's decline in global ranking from the 501-600 range in 2023 to the 1001-1200 range in 2024 is primarily attributed to a shift in the evaluation criteria for the Research quality pillar. Previously, the institution was assessed solely on field-weighted citation impact. While this metric remains a component, its weight has been significantly reduced to 15% from 30%. To complement this, three new metrics have been introduced: Research strength, Research excellence, and Research influence, each contributing 5% to the overall score.

04. Detailed Analysis of Research Metrics

4.1 Research Pillars Breakdown

Our university's research environment was rated 9.2 out of 100, while the top-ranked Oxford University achieved a perfect score of 100. Many of our researchers are invited to participate in the annual Academic Reputation Survey, which contributes 18 points to our overall score. To maximize our ranking, we must actively engage with this survey.

Additionally, securing and acknowledging research projects is crucial, as research income accounts for 5.5 points. The third indicator, Research Productivity, measures the quantity and quality of research papers published by our faculty in SCOPUS-indexed journals across various disciplines. Table 1 shows the productivity of each faculty. Some disciplines within the SCOPUS database do not directly fall into our faculty structure, such as interdisciplinary studies or general sciences. These are left as separate items.

Table 1: Citation metrics for different subject areas

Faculty	Subject area	Number of Academic staff	Number of Papers	Number of Citations	Productivity	Citations per Paper
Agriculture	Agricultural and Biological Sciences	106	700	7292	6.60	10.4
Allied Health Sciences	Nursing	64	50	1031	1.34	20.6
	Health Professions		36	488		13.6
Arts	Social Sciences	179	282	2192	2.30	7.8
	Arts and Humanities		46	131		2.8
	Economics, Econometrics and Finance		84	239		2.8
Dental Sciences	Dentistry	60	57	434	0.95	7.6
Engineering	Engineering	114	832	5781	8.58	6.9
	Chemical Engineering		146	1993		13.7
Management	Business, Management and Accounting	47	102	431	2.17	4.2
Medicine	Medicine	123	809	68363	11.26	84.5
	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology		315	7982		25.3
	Immunology and Microbiology		161	2078		12.9
	Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceuticals		100	983		9.8
Science	Environmental Science	109	539	6643	16.29	12.3
	Computer Science		429	2931		6.8
	Materials Science		236	3022		12.8
	Chemistry		218	3219		14.8
	Physics and Astronomy		207	1765		8.5
	Mathematics		147	1031		7.0
Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	Veterinary	42	81	519	1.93	6.4
Other	Multidisciplinary		284	1600		5.6
	Earth and Planetary Sciences		145	1643		11.3
	Decision Sciences		135	586		4.3

4.2 Research Quality Breakdown

The Citation Impact component constitutes the largest portion of the Research Quality pillar. It is calculated by normalizing the average number of times a university's published works are cited by other scholars. The specific methodology employed by THE is proprietary, but Box 1 outlines some of the key indices involved.

Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 3,179 research papers were published. Figure 3 provides a detailed breakdown of these papers across various subject areas. Table 1 presents the Citation Per Paper (CPP) values for various subject categories.

Box 1: Indices used to calculate Research Quality

1. Citations per Publication (CPP)

This metric looks at the average number of times a university's published research is cited by other scholars worldwide.

For each university, THE calculates the average number of citations per paper:

$$\text{CPP} = \text{Total Citations} / \text{Total Publications}$$

Example:

A university has published 500 papers.

These papers have been cited 5,000 times.

The CPP for this university would be: $5000/500 = 10$

2. Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI):

THE uses a field-normalized metric, which means citations are adjusted based on the field of study. This ensures fair comparison across disciplines that have different citation practices (e.g., physics might have more citations per paper than literature).

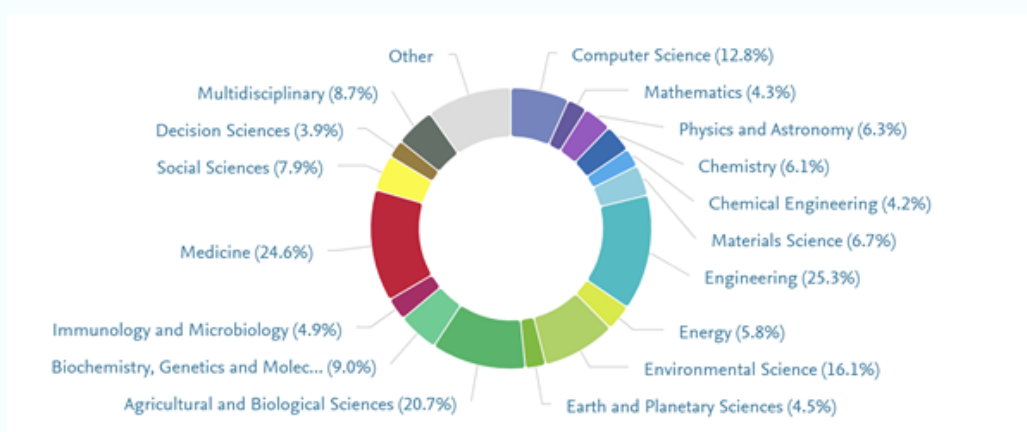


Figure 3: Percentage distribution of papers published by different subject areas

Research Strength is evaluated using the Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI). Table 2 presents the key indicators published by Elsevier. The FWCI has declined to 1.34 in 2023.

Research Excellence is assessed by counting the number of publications that rank in the top 10% globally based on FWCI. Field-weighted values for each year are provided in Table 2.

Research Influence is determined by the quality and quantity of publications. It's also measured by comparing the number of citations an institution's publications receive to global averages for similar works.

Table 2 shows the main indicators

	Overall	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Awards Count	6	4	1	1	-	-
International Collaboration (%)	53.3	53.1	53.2	50.7	53.3	56.2
Academic-Corporate Collaboration (%)	2.3	2.8	3.5	2	1.9	1.6
Scholarly Output	3179	429	603	755	691	701
Citations	61257	14038	25926	11762	6726	2805
Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)	1.74	1.9	2.45	1.51	1.7	1.34
Field-Weighted Citation Impact (median)	0.45	0.53	0.45	0.47	0.47	0.33
Outputs in Top Citation Percentiles (top 10%, field-weighted)	10.6	12.8	8.6	9	11.7	11.7
Citations per Publication	19.3	32.7	43	15.6	9.7	4
Field-Weighted View Impact	2.25	2.05	3.74	2.03	1.78	1.77
Patents Count (patent office: All Patent Offices)	55	26	21	6	2	-

05. Global and National Context

Figure 4 shows how some Sri Lankan Universities perform in THE Rankings.

Rank	Name Country/Region	Overall	Teaching	Research Environment	Research Quality	Industry	International Outlook
1001–1200	University of Colombo 📍 Sri Lanka	28.3–32.6	25.4	10.6	60.2	18.7	39.3
1001–1200	University of Peradeniya 📍 Sri Lanka	28.3–32.6	18.4	9.2	58.6	23.3	39.8
1501+	University of Kelaniya 📍 Sri Lanka	9.7–22.7	16.8	8.1	12.0	17.2	36.2
1501+	University of Sri Jayewardenepura 📍 Sri Lanka	9.7–22.7	13.0	9.0	35.7	18.4	35.8

Figure 4: THE ranking of other universities in Sri Lanka

06. Recommendations for Improvement

Strategies for Improving THE Rankings:

- Increase Research Output and Quality: Encourage publishing in high-impact journals, improve research infrastructure, and promote cross-disciplinary research.
- Boost Citation Impact: Develop strategies to increase citation visibility, such as targeting high-impact research areas and encouraging international collaboration.
- Enhance Research Reputation: Participate more actively in global academic surveys and networks to increase the institution's research reputation.
- Strengthen Academic-Corporate Collaboration: Suggest ways to enhance partnerships with industries, which can lead to increased research income and impact.
- Attract More Research Funding: Encourage efforts to secure grants, especially in underfunded areas like social sciences and humanities.

Stanford/Elsevier's Top 2% Scientist Rankings

Stanford University's list of "World's Top 2%" scientists is based on a 2% or above percentile rank, or the top 100,000 by c-score (with and without self-citations). This prestigious list identifies the world's leading researchers, representing approximately 2% of all scientists worldwide. It encompasses standardized data on citations, h-index, and a wide range of bibliometric indicators. Researchers are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields, drawing from Scopus data provided by Elsevier.

The following members are recognised in the database based on career-long citation impact up until the end of 2023.

	Rank	H-index	No of citations of		Composite score
			Single authored	Single + First authored	
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, Faculty of Engineering	72,478	45	83	2281	3.5803
Prof. N. Senanayake, Faculty of Medicine	130,368	25	242	1408	3.3698
Late Prof. C.B. Dissanayake, Faculty of Science	142,179	26	441	1007	3.3734
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne, Faculty of Medicine	148,399	28	358	1274	3.3663
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera, Faculty of Engineering	223,418	44	0	2208	3.1640

Further, the following members are recognised in the database based on the citation index up in 2023. Prof. J.B. Ekanayake stands at No 01 in the country.

	Rank	H-index	No of citations of		Composite score
			Single authored	Single + First authored	
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, Faculty of Engineering	85,985	15	1	84	2.7611
Prof. S. D. Dharmaratne, Faculty of Medicine	107,365	49	0	17	2.6993
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne, Faculty of Medicine	162,482	6	25	101	2.5682
Prof. R.P.N.P. Rajapaksha, Faculty of Agriculture	348,283	8	0	90	2.2460





The URC is delighted to announce that researchers from the University of Peradeniya now have access to the state-of-the-art research facilities at the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM) at **Argonne National Laboratory** (UChicago Argonne, LLC), effective August 15, 2024.

Important Information for User Registration:

All researchers from the University of Peradeniya who plan to utilize the CNM facilities as a user or collaborator must register individually. Access the user registration portal here:

https://beam.aps.anl.gov/pls/apsweb/ufr_main_pkg.usr_start_page

CNM User Eligibility and Access:

To become a CNM user, you will need to:

- Have a User Agreement (UA) in place with Argonne National Laboratory.
- Complete the user registration process and receive a badge number.
- Once your user registration is processed, you can submit a user proposal for review.

Access the user proposal portal here:

<https://pico.cnm.anl.gov/proposals/people/login>

Accepted proposals will grant **free access** to CNM facilities. Some facilities require on-site presence, while others offer remote access options. Please note that your proposal should be aligned with their core research.

Particularly look for the following facilities that can be accessed online:

- Carbon, High-Performance Computing Cluster (2600 cores, 30 GPUs, ~30 teraflops)
- BLAST, a machine-learning-based toolkit for developing force fields from data sets, including optimization and validation protocols
- FANTASTX, machine learning/artificial intelligence framework to determine atomistic-level structures from multi-modal experimental and theoretical data



Further Resources:

You will find a full list of facilities you can access attached to this email. For more comprehensive information on CNM resources and capabilities, please visit:

<https://cnm.anl.gov/pages/about>

<https://cnm.anl.gov/tools-and-capabilities#TMG>

<https://cnm.anl.gov/pages/research-at-the-cnm>

<https://cnm.anl.gov/groups>

Argonne's Undergraduate Research Aide Program Ask

Each autumn semester, scientists at Argonne National Lab advertise **paid research assistant placement** opportunities on their website. Our students can make targeted applications or if no suitable placements are currently available, apply to be part of the application pool, which hiring managers search through before advertising on the Argonne website.

Placement duration can be anywhere from **8 weeks to a full academic year**.

Key requirements:

- 18 years or older at the time the appointment begins.
- Cumulative minimum grade point average 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.
- Must be currently enrolled full-time at an accredited institution and have completed at least one semester of schooling by the start of the program.

Visit www.anl.gov/education, contact your Placement Co-ordinator or email GO@cardiff.ac.uk





Research Publication Facilitation Fund University Of Peradeniya

The new application for Research Publication Facilitation application is now available in <https://site.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc>

According to the new process introduced for the reimbursement of Article processing charges, applicants can get prior approval for the payments before submission of the application. Upon receiving the approval for the APC from URC, usually through an email, submit the invoice for the payment of the APC, and the credit card statement to process the payment.

Note:

- Application is a fillable form, which you can fill using Adobe Acrobat Reader latest versions.
- Furnish all the details, sign the application, get the Head and the Dean to sign.
- Attach a copy of the complete manuscript and the acceptance letter.
- Only the full-length articles published in SCI/SSCI/SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded with an impact factor of 1 or higher will be considered for RPPF
- If the impact factor is greater than or equal to 1 and less than 2, USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.
- If the impact factor is greater than or equal to 2, USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1500 per paper per year.

Special Note:

- The payment must be done by a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya.
- If two authors claim for the same article fill in two separate applications and send both applications together (Attaching one copy of the manuscript and the invoice is adequate). If one author paid for the APC, a consent letter from the second author should be submitted.
- Funding is subjected to availability of funds.



Research Publication Facilitation Fund 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 1500.00** per year for the researchers of the University of Peradeniya to facilitate publishing their research findings in high ranking peer-reviewed journals.

Publishing research findings in reputed journals inevitably increases the visibility of research work and thereby it brings reputation and publicity for the researchers as well as for the university. Therefore, encouraging researchers to publish their scholarly work in reputed high-impact journals is of paramount importance. Publishing in many high-impact international peer reviewed journals involves page charges amounting to USD 2500 or even more, especially if the researcher intends to publish as an open access article. Publishing as an open access article invariably enhances the visibility of the research work leading to high number of citations.

Assisting researchers with their publications has been a long-felt need at Peradeniya. Providing assistance for researchers in getting their research work in high impact journals has been identified as one of the priorities in establishing the University Research Council. Accordingly, the URC takes pleasure in enhancing the Publication support to our researchers from January 2023

Applying for Research Publication Facilitation Fund [RPFF]

Application

A link for the fillable form is given below. This can fill using Adobe Acrobat Reader latest versions.

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

- Furnish all the details, sign the application, get the Head and the Dean to sign.
- Attach a copy of the complete manuscript and the acceptance letter.
- And send the application to URC before paying the Article Processing Charge (APC) for approval and necessary processing.

Financial assistance

- Only the full-length articles published in SCI/SSCI/SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded with an impact factor of 1 or higher will be considered for RPFF
- If the impact factor is greater than or equal to 1 and less than 2, USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.
- If the impact factor is greater than or equal to 2, USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1500 per paper per year.

Eligibility criteria

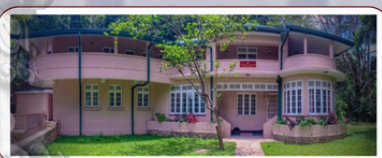
- **Applicant:** The applicant should be a permanent staff member of University of Peradeniya and one of the authors of the journal article
- **Affiliation:** University of Peradeniya should have been identified as the sole affiliation or one of the affiliations. Journal articles which do not carry University of Peradeniya as an affiliation are not eligible for funding.
- **Research work:** Research should have been carried out fully or in part at University of Peradeniya. Research work carried out by a permanent staff member of University of Peradeniya completely outside of University of Peradeniya may also be eligible.
- **The use of Institutional e-mail address:** The author/s affiliated to University of Peradeniya are encouraged to use the official e-mail address with pdn domain name provided by University of Peradeniya in correspondence with the journal. If the applicant is the corresponding author of the journal article the author should have used the institutional e-mail address.
- **Journal:** The journal should be indexed in SCI/SSCI or SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded journal with a journal impact of 1 or higher.
- **Frequency:** Once a calendar year.

Payment

- The payment must be done by a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya
- Upon receiving the approval for the APC from URC, usually through an email, submit the invoice for the payment of the APC, and the credit card statement to process the payment.
- If two authors claim for the same article fill in two separate applications and send both applications together (Attaching one copy of the manuscript and the invoice is adequate). If one author paid for the APC, a consent letter from the second author should be submitted.

Others

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



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