April 2025, volume 5 issue II

## RESEARCH@



2025

### **URC E-NEWSLETTER**

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University of Peradeniya

### Multidisciplinary Research Grant - 2025

The University Research Committee (URC) completed the evaluation of multidisciplinary research grant applications received for the 2025 round, selecting 19 grants for funding from a total of 32 submissions. The selection process was highly competitive, reflecting the innovative and diverse nature of the proposals received. The following table provides a detailed summary of the application and funding statistics, noting that one grant award remains pending.

Faculty	Affiliation of grant applicants		Winning
	Principal Investigator	Co- Investigator	grants
Faculty of Agriculture	5	9	4
Faculty of Allied Health Science	2	6	1
Faculty of Arts	1	12	1
Faculty of Dental Sciences	5	13	2
Faculty of Engineering	9	12	4
Faculty of Management	0	1	0
Faculty of Medicine	2	21	1
Faculty of Science	5	14	4
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	3	9	1
Other		24	

### RESEARCH GRANTS

## New Approaches for Measuring Brain Changes Across Longer Timespans (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage multidisciplinary investigators to develop exploratory, highly novel new approaches, or innovative applications of existing approaches, to measure brain activity, connectivity, genomics, or other aspects across the age spectrum of neurodevelopment. The overarching goal is to extend our understanding of brain development and aging, including studies of the neurodevelopmental origins of later health and disease, by improving repeated measures across longer epochs of the lifespan to better predict outcomes at later ages. Research can include healthy human participants of any age; specific clinical groups such those with cognitive, motor, or affective regulation challenges; and/or animal research on these domains of function. The studies can focus on longitudinal neuroanatomical or functional changes at any level, including genetics/genomics, single cells, connectomics, neural population activity patterns, and others. This funding opportunity is intended to encourage technological and conceptual innovation through this high risk, high reward funding mechanism to develop highly innovative ideas that either lack preliminary data or need additional preliminary data.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requires a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP).

Closing date 16 June 2025

Award amount max USD 275,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-272.html">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-272.html</a>

## Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) encourages grant applications from investigators interested in conducting basic research studies into the biological/genetic causes and mechanisms of cancer health disparities. These awards will support pilot and feasibility studies designed to investigate biological/genetic contributors of cancer health disparities, such as (1) mechanistic studies of biological factors associated with cancer health disparities, (2) the development and testing of new methodologies and models, and (3) secondary data analyses. This NOFO is also designed to aid and facilitate the growth of a nationwide cohort of scientists with a high level of basic research expertise in cancer health disparities research who can expand available resources and tools, such as biospecimens, patient derived models and methods that are necessary to conduct basic research in cancer health disparities. In addition, the NOFO will further the development of scientific areas, providing support for early-stage exploratory projects that lead to future in-depth mechanistic studies (such as R01 projects) of the biology of cancer health disparities.

Closing date 16 June 2025

Award amount max USD 275,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-244.html">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-244.html</a>

#### Secondary Analysis and Integration of Existing Data to Elucidate Cancer Risk and Related Outcomes (R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) along with other participating Institutes encourages submission of applications proposing to conduct secondary data analysis and integration of existing datasets and database resources, with the ultimate aim to elucidate cancer risk and related outcomes (e.g., risk prediction or reduction, survival, or response to treatment, etc.). The goal of this initiative is to address key scientific questions relevant to cancer by supporting the analysis of existing clinical, environmental, surveillance, health services, vital statistics, behavioral, lifestyle, genomic, and molecular profiles data. Applicants are encouraged to leverage and perform innovative analyses of the existing data. Applications may include new research aims that are being addressed with existing data, new or advanced methods of analyses, or novel combinations and integration of datasets that allow the exploration of important scientific questions in cancer research.

Closing date 16 June 2025

Award amount max USD 275,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-096.html

## Investigator Initiated Research in Computational Genomics and Data Science (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this renewing Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support investigator-initiated research efforts fostering innovation in computational genomics, data science, statistics, bioinformatics, and data visualization and exploration. This NOFO supports development of innovative analytical methodologies and approaches and early-stage tools and software for genomics, rather than incremental advances or modification and application of existing approaches. Projects should be enabling for genomics research, broadly applicable to human health and disease, and generalizable across diseases and biological systems.

Closing date 17 June 2025

Award amount max USD 100,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-370.html

#### WHO project on ethical climate and health research

The WHO Health Ethics and Governance Unit invites proposals designed to help facilitate the promotion of ethically sound and equitable climate and health research. We particularly welcome proposals reflecting the priorities and experiences of communities most affected by climate change. Proposals can address any ethical dimension of research into climate change and health, including both adaptation and mitigation responses, bearing in mind our commitment to global equity and the need for practical ethical guidance for the global health research community. Themes of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Ethical challenges in conducting research on health impacts of climate change, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Ethical challenges in conducting research on health impacts of climate change, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Justice considerations and the distribution of benefits and burdens;
- Assessing net benefit and trade-offs between different types of health gains and other social, economic, ecological, cultural considerations;
- Representation, power, and epistemic justice in shaping the climate and health research agenda and practice;
- Valuing health, with a climate lens.

Closing date 17 June 2025 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-proposals--who-project-on-ethical-climate-and-health-research">https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-proposals--who-project-on-ethical-climate-and-health-research</a>

## Exploratory/Developmental Bioengineering Research Grants (EBRG) (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

The purpose of this engineering-oriented notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) announcement is to encourage submissions of exploratory/developmental Bioengineering Research Grant (EBRG) applications to demonstrate feasibility and potential utility of new capabilities or improvements in quality, speed, efficacy, operability, costs, and/or accessibility of solutions to problems in basic biomedical, pre-clinical, or clinical research, clinical care delivery, or accessibility. This NOFO will support clinical trials that test functionality or validate performance in the chosen setting. Applications that propose phase III clinical trials are not sought by and will not be supported through this NOFO.

Closing date 16 June 2025

Award amount max USD 275,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-321.html

#### **Zedeck-Jacobs Opportunity Equity in Organizations Grant**

The Zedeck-Jacobs Opportunity Equity in Organizations Grant supports research that advances the understanding of organizational practices that hinder or facilitate access for all workers to opportunities for employment, advancement, and development; and to fair treatment as organizational citizens.

The research should be designed to gain deeper insights about and/or solutions to various forms of unfair discrimination (e.g., adverse impact, abusive behavior, internal equity concerns, and discrepancies across demographic groups) or new approaches to opportunity equity, social justice, and fairness in the workplace. The research can focus on any aspect of employment (e.g., recruitment, selection, career advancement, development opportunities, and adverse impact assessment and reduction). Of special interest are research proposals that point to new approaches to assessing or promoting various forms of opportunity equity and that blends I-O psychology, public policy, and the law.

Closing date 30 June 2025 (Forecast)

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

 $Website: \underline{https://www.siop.org/about-siop/awards-recognition/grants-programs/research-grants/programs/programs/programs/research-grants/programs$ 

#### **NVIDIA Academic Grants**

The NVIDIA Academic Grant Program advances academic research by providing world-class computing access and resources to researchers.

NVIDIA is requesting proposals from academic researchers who are working in the following subject areas.

- Generative AI: Training and Model Development
- Generative AI: Alignment and Inference
- Simulation and Modeling

Closing date 30 June 2025

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/industries/higher-education-research/academic-grant-program/">https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/industries/higher-education-research/academic-grant-program/</a>

#### **AI for Climate and Nature Grand Challenge**

The AI for Climate and Nature Grand Challenge is a global \$100 million initiative from the Bezos Earth Fund. The Grand Challenge is exploring new ideas for multiplying the impact of climate and nature efforts using modern AI. The first round of awards will focus on sustainable proteins, power grid optimization, and biodiversity conservation, in addition to embracing visionary wildcard solutions for climate and nature.

Closing date 30 July 2025 (Forecast) Award amount max USD 2,000,000 Award amount min USD 50,000 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://aiforclimateandnature.org/about-the-grand-challenge/

#### **Data Corpora for Artificial Intelligence**

This supports projects aimed at preparing and providing data as a foundation for the development or advancement of AI in research.

The purpose of funding is to support the compilation and extension of data corpora for AI. Projects may also include the following aspects:

- conception of selection and quality criteria, implementation of quality assurance measures
- reuse, adaptation and in particular application of data cleansing, aggregation, annotation, curation and harmonisation procedures
- provision of the compiled or extended data corpus accessible through existing scientific information infrastructures

Closing date 30 July 2025 Award amount max €400,000 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals/2025/ifr-25-28

#### **DAERA** directed AFBI research work programme

The 2024 DAERA Directed AFBI Research Work Programme (DDARWP) call for applications aims to engage researchers in addressing research and development needs across 5 thematic areas;

#### • Theme 1 - Climate

The goal of Research Theme 1 is to develop climate neutral and resilient economies through resource efficient and sufficient circular economies which are resilient and adapted to the expected effects of climate change and also provide green jobs for globally competitive and resilient industries. We need research to support new policies for agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry which help us adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact. In particular, research is needed to refine the national inventories for the agri-food and land use sectors and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions from ruminants.

#### • Theme 2 - Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

The goal of Research Theme 2 is to develop food systems which are more sustainable with respect to environmental, economic and social aspects on a global platform. Research and innovation are needed to help deliver a food system that supports animal welfare, a healthy planet, including a climate neutral agricultural sector resilient to external shocks, which incorporates circularity, bioeconomy development and resource efficiency and delivers nutrition for sustainable and healthy diets.

#### • Theme 3 - One Health

The goal of Research Theme 3 is to develop a strategic approach to protecting animal and plant health and animal welfare supported by sound scientific evidence. Information, gathered through targeted research, on the wider implications of animal / plant disease control strategies and interventions and animal welfare issues is needed to evaluate and inform the direction of future policy within Northern Ireland and to inform discussions with other Government bodies. In particular, there will be a focus on understanding emerging animal disease risks and the growing threats posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

#### • Theme 4 - Natural Environment

The goal of Research Theme 4 is to develop a better appreciation of the interaction between land/marine based industries and how the natural environment and the regulatory compliance within and between these industries will help promote enhanced policy making and regulatory capabilities. Research will support actions to reduce the significant pressures our agri-food and forestry sectors have on water quality and soil health; to reverse the loss of biodiversity; and to restore and protect the environment.

#### • Theme 5 - Rural Affairs

The goal of Research Theme 5 is to build the evidence base to inform the DAERA's broad rural policy agenda. In particular, it is seeking to use research to develop a more robust and sophisticated understanding of the social and economic characteristics of rural areas, with a particular focus on identifying the specific needs of disadvantaged groups and what this means for the development and equitable delivery of government policy for both the farming and non-farm sector.

DAERA is particularly interested in receiving full format proposals which support the development of capability in areas of key strategic importance (e.g. behavioural science; land-use and economic modelling; data mining; genomics).

The DAERA Innovation Strategy 2020-20252 .outlines the goals and objectives for DAERA to create an enabling environment for innovation to flourish and to enhance the impact of knowledge generation and science investments to help DAERA deliver Departmental and PfG objectives and meet our commitments under the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Closing date 21 June 2025 (Forecast)
Award amount max £3,000,000
Award amount min £275,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://www.mun.ca/iser/funding-programs/iser-https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/daera-directed-afbi-research-work-programme-2024-grant/">https://www.mun.ca/iser/funding-programs/iser-https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/daera-directed-afbi-research-work-programme-2024-grant/</a>

### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CALL

#### **Research Fellowships**

The Helen Hay Whitney Foundation supports early postdoctoral research training in all basic biomedical sciences.

To attain its ultimate goal of increasing the number of imaginative, well-trained and dedicated medical scientists, the Foundation grants financial support of sufficient duration to help further the careers of young men and women engaged in biological or medical research.

Closing date 16 June 2025 Award amount min USD 229,500 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://hhwf.org/research-fellowship/">https://hhwf.org/research-fellowship/</a>

#### LF Fellows

These enable young researchers to establish an independent profile or research group within biomedical, clinical or health sciences.

Closing date 18 June 2025 Award amount max DKK 11,100,000 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: https://lundbeckfonden.com/apply-grants/lf-fellows

#### **Fellowships**

The Matsumae International Foundation invites applications for its fellowships. These support research projects conducted in Japan, with preference given to studies in the fields of natural sciences, engineering and medicine.

Closing date 30 June 2025 (Forecast)
Award amount max JPY 1,440,000
Award amount min --Country of applicant institution Sri Lanka included

Website: <a href="https://www.mif-japan.org/en/fellowship/announcement/?hl=en">https://www.mif-japan.org/en/fellowship/announcement/?hl=en</a>

#### **MOFA Taiwan Fellowship**

The MOFA Taiwan Fellowship supports foreign experts and scholars interested in researches related to Taiwan, cross-strait relations, Asia-Pacific region and Sinology, in conducting advanced research at universities or academic institutions in Taiwan.

Closing date 30 June 2025 (Forecast)
Award amount max TWD 720,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

#### **Autistic Scientist Predoctoral Fellowship**

The primary purpose of the predoctoral fellowship is to provide funding to support exceptional research training opportunities for highly qualified candidates. Fellows will work directly with mentors who are leading autism researchers across a wide variety of fields broadly related to autism research. We encourage applications on all topics, but applications on the following topics are particularly encouraged:

- Adult transition and life course outcomes (including aging and older adulthood)
- Behavior dangerous to self and others, including certain self-injurious behaviors, and innovative, person-centered supports and interventions (e.g., addressing social or environmental triggers of behaviors) to promote physical and emotional well-being
- Co-occurring medical and mental health conditions (particularly seizures and GI problems/microbiome), with an emphasis on intervention studies and can also include immunology/inflammation
- Development and validation of measures:
  - Examining outcomes important to community members (e.g., well-being)
  - Including novel or non-traditional modalities (e.g., machine learning, biological measures)
- Gender, sexual health and/or reproductive health
- Innovative implementation of technology to enhance reach and impact of services, with an emphasis on diagnosis and intervention in low resource settings
- Pre-clinical studies aimed at helping to ameliorate the most disabling challenges associated with autism
- Research addressing interactions with service systems that can inform systematic policy changes
- Research that benefits communities who experience compounded marginalization (for research that involves human participants, Autism Speaks will prioritize study designs that include and benefit the diversity of the community that we serve)
- Studies addressing the mental health and well-being of autistic people (as defined by them)
- Studies that focus on individuals who experience autism with intellectual disability, who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), or those for whom communication solutions are unavailable.

Closing date 26 June 2025 (Forecast)
Award amount max USD 80,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://www.autismspeaks.org/research-grants">https://www.autismspeaks.org/research-grants</a>

#### IBRO/IBE-UNESCO science of learning fellowships

These support a period of residence at IBE-UNESCO's headquarters for training on translating neuroscience research on learning and the brain to educators, policy makers and governments.

Closing date 30 June 2025 (Forecast) Award amount max TWD 720,000 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://ibro.org/grants/">https://ibro.org/grants/</a>

#### **JSS Travel Award**

The International Liaison Committee of the Japan Sociological Society (JSS) is pleased to announce its 18th annual grant competition for early-career scholars in its renewed format as JSS Travel Award. JSS will select an overall of 10 scholars to present papers in two special sessions and participate in the JSS annual meeting on the topic of Decentering Global Sociology, to be held at Kyoto Sangyo University, Kyoto, Japan, between 9 and 10 November, 2024.

This year's annual meeting of the JSS, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, will invite the President of the International Sociological Association (ISA) Geoffrey Pleyers, who has been advocating global sociology. Thus, JSS hopes that this will be an opportunity to engage in dialogue with a diverse group of scholars interested in contributing to the reinvention of global sociology. JSS will be holding a session themed "Decentering Global Sociology" and invite not only papers that address the concrete issues related to the theme from the various fields of sociology but also research on theoretical and/or epistemological analysis.

Closing date 20 June 2025 (Forecast)
Award amount max JPY 120,000
Award amount min JPY 20,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://jss-sociology.org/news/jimukyoku/board/20240405jss-travel-award-2024-decentering-global-sociology-deadline-june-20-2024-2359-tokyo-gmt900/">https://jss-sociology.org/news/jimukyoku/board/20240405jss-travel-award-2024-decentering-global-sociology-deadline-june-20-2024-2359-tokyo-gmt900/</a>

#### Sponsored seminar series grants

The Biochemical Society invites applications for its sponsored seminar series grants. These support institutions in hosting seminar series and help with the travel costs for guest speakers at a series of seminars. The grant can also be used to assist with catering costs should any refreshments be provided with the lectures or seminars.

Closing date 20 June 2025 Award amount max £1,500 Award amount min £500 Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <a href="https://www.biochemistry.org/grants-and-awards/grants-and-bursaries/sponsored-seminar-series-grants/">https://www.biochemistry.org/grants-and-awards/grants-and-bursaries/sponsored-seminar-series-grants/</a>

## Call for Research Proposals: GCF Competitive Research Awards 2025-2026

The Gamani Corea Foundation (GCF) has announced the launch of the Competitive Research Awards 2025–2026, inviting applications from researchers and research teams dedicated to advancing economic development in Sri Lanka. This prestigious grant scheme aims to foster high-quality, innovative, and multidisciplinary research that addresses key economic challenges and contributes to national progress.

Established to honor Dr. Gamani Corea, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the GCF is committed to supporting research that bridges disciplines such as economics, management, social sciences, and humanities, with a strong focus on practical solutions and policy impact.

#### The awards will be offered under two categories:

- ✓ Individual Grants A grant of up to LKR 1 million will be awarded to individual researchers holding a Ph.D. in Economics or a related field from a reputable university. Applicants without a Ph.D. may also be considered if they demonstrate a proven track record of successful research, publications, or contributions to policy development and implementation.
- ✓ Team Grants A grant of up to LKR 3 million will be awarded to research teams comprising at least three members from different universities or institutions. Team leaders must hold a Ph.D. in Economics or a related field such as Mathematics, Statistics, Management, Social Sciences, or Humanities, and demonstrate research and publication success. Team members should also hold Ph.D. qualifications in Economics or complementary disciplines; however, exceptions may be made for researchers with significant research and policy contributions. If the team leader is not an economist, the team must include at least one researcher with a Ph.D. in Economics from a reputable university.

Interested researchers and teams are invited to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI) by May 25, 2025**. The EOI should include the title of the proposed research, a brief abstract summarizing the project, and the curriculum vitae (CV) of the participating researchers. Submissions must be sent via email to research@gcfsl.org

For further details and eligibility criteria, applicants are encouraged to visit the Foundation's official website at <a href="https://www.gamanicoreafoundation.lk">www.gamanicoreafoundation.lk</a> or contact the Foundation directly at +94 112 695 007 / +94 114 500 067.

This initiative is expected to promote research excellence and make a meaningful contribution to Sri Lanka's economic development by supporting innovative solutions and evidence-based policy recommendations. The University of Peradeniya encourages its academic community to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

## Call for Research Proposals: GCF Competitive Research Awards 2025-2026





No: 21 Horton Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka. T: (+94) 112 693 007, 114 500 067

E: gamanicoreafoundation@gmail.com, W: www.gamanicoreafoundation.lk

6th April 2025

Ms. Yashodha Thotahewa, Secretary, University Research Council, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.

Dear Ms. Thotahewa.

#### Awards for Research in Economic Development 2025 - 2026

The Gamani Corea Foundation (GCF) is an autonomous, non-profit research institution dedicated to advancing global economic development, with a particular focus on Sri Lanka. As part of our commitment to fostering high-quality research, we offer the GCF Research Awards, a competitive grant scheme designed to support innovative economic and multidisciplinary research that contributes to Sri Lanka's economic progress. We are pleased to launch the second round of the program for 2025–2026, continuing to prioritize economic research and multi-disciplinary studies with a strong focus on advancing economic development. The research proposals will be invited under two categories:

- Individual Grants: A grant of LKR 1 million will be awarded to individual researchers who hold a Ph.D.
  from a reputable university in economics. A qualification less than a Ph.D. may also be considered if the
  applicant has a proven track record of successful research, publications, and/or policy development and
  implementation.
- Team Grants: A grant of LKR 3 million will be awarded to research teams comprising at least three members. The team members may be from different universities or institutions. The team leader: should either (a) hold a Ph.D. in Economics or (b) hold a Ph.D. in a relevant field such as Mathematics, Statistics, Management, Social Sciences, or Humanities, from a reputable university, and must demonstrate a track record of successful research and publications.
  Team members: should hold a Ph.D. in Economics or a complementary discipline. If any team member lacks a Ph.D., they must possess a demonstrated history of successful research, publications, and/or policy development and implementation. If the team leader does not have a background in Economics, the team must include at least one researcher with a Ph.D. in Economics.

We invite interested researchers or research teams to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by May 25th, 2025. The EOI should include the title of the research, a brief abstract summarizing the proposed project, and the curriculum vitae (CV) of the researcher(s) involved in the project. The advertisement is attached herewith for your information. EOIs should be sent via email to research@gcfsl.org. The advertisement for this grant scheme is attached for your reference.

We trust that this initiative will promote excellence in research and significantly contribute to the economic development of Sri Lanka. I kindly request your cooperation in circulating this announcement to the relevant academic staff members at the University of Peradeniya.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Ruel-trup ans

Dr. Harsha Aturupane, Honorary Chairman, Gamani Corea Foundation.

## Call for Research Proposals: GCF Competitive Research Awards 2025-2026





#### Competitive Research Awards 2025-2026

Research Grants for Economic Development

#### Call for Research Proposals

The Gamani Corea Foundation (GCF) is an autonomous, non-profit research institution dedicated to advancing global economic development, with a particular focus on Sri Lanka. The Foundation was set up by Dr. Gamani Corea, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The GCF Research Awards is a grant scheme to promote innovative economic and multidisciplinary research that can contribute to the economic development of the Sri Lanka. The GCF Research Awards 2025–2026 will prioritize economic research and multidisciplinary studies that bridge economics, social sciences, management, and/or humanities, with a strong emphasis on advancing economic development.

Type of Grants	Maximum Amount of Grants	18.8
Individual Grants	Up to LKR 1 Mn	
Team Grants	Up to LKR 3 Mn	

#### Eligibility Criteria

#### Individual Grants

Individuals with a Ph.D. in Economics can apply for this grant. A qualification less than a Ph.D.
can also be considered if the researcher has a track record of successful research and
publications and/or successful policy development and implementation.

#### Team Grants

- This grant will be awarded to a team of researchers. The team should consist of at least 3
  members.
- The team leader: Should have: (a) either a Ph.D. in Economics or (b) a Ph.D. in a relevant field such as Mathematics, Statistics, Management, the Social Sciences, or Humanities, from a reputed university, and a track record of successful research and publications.
- The team members: Researchers with a Ph. D qualification with expertise in economics or a complementary discipline. A qualification of less than a Ph.D. can also be considered if the researcher has a track record of successful research and publications and/or successful policy development and implementation. If the team leader is not an economist, the team must include at least one researcher with a Ph.D. in Economics from a reputed university.



#### Areas of Research

- > Any topics in economics
- or

  Multi-disciplinary research with a strong focus on advancing economic development

#### How to Apply

- Interested researchers or research teams are requested to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). The EOI should include the title of the research, a brief abstract summarizing the proposed project, and the curriculum vitae (CV) of the researcher(s) involved in the project.
- The Foundation will inform the applicants whose EOIs qualify as potentially promising research. Upon receiving notification of selection, the invited individuals or teams will be requested to prepare a detailed proposal. Guidelines and requirements for the detailed proposals will be provided along with the notification of selection.
- The completed EOIs should be emailed <u>research@gcfsl.org</u> on or before May 25th, 2025.

Note: Student research work, including Ph.D., M.Phil., M.Sc., M.A., or equivalent programs, are not eligible for funding under this grant scheme.

For inquiries or additional information, please reach out to the GCF Research Division: Email: research@gcfsl.org. Phone: 011-4500067

Chairman Gamani Corea Foundation, No. 21, Horton Place,

## Accelerating Research through AI Tools – Workshop Recap!

On April 24, 2025, the University Research Council, together with the Multidisciplinary AI Research Center (MARC) hosted an exciting workshop tailored for permanent staff, temporary staff, and undergraduate students, exploring how Generative AI tools can revolutionize the research process.

#### In this workshop, the following topics were covered:

- Overview of the research cycle and key AI insights Prof. Janaka Ekanayake
- Orchestrating Discovery: How Al automates tasks, saves time, redefines research as higher order pursuits – Prof. Roshan Godaliyadda
- Formulating Research Problems & Goals: Leveraging LLMs for Problem
   Identification & Goal Setting Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake
- Enhancing Literature Reviews & Report Generation with Elicit Prof. Janaka
   Ekanayake
- Research Planning, Analysis & Conclusion Interpretation: Designing research and interpreting results with AI assistance **Prof. Roshan Ragel**

This session empowered 72 researchers with hands-on techniques to make their workflow smarter, faster, and more insightful.



## Accelerating Research through Al Tools – Workshop Recap!



#### University of Peradeniya Researchers Recognized for Publications in Top-Tier SCOPUS Q1 Journals; Incentive Mechanism Under Development

The University Research Council (URC) is actively developing a new mechanism to incentivize and reward researchers at the University of Peradeniya who publish their work in prestigious SCOPUS Q1 journals. In a proactive step towards this initiative, the URC has compiled a comprehensive database of publications affiliated with the University of Peradeniya that appeared in SCOPUS Q1 journals throughout the year 2024.

This dedicated database serves as a crucial resource for researchers and the university administration alike, ensuring accurate recognition of high-impact research output. University researchers are strongly encouraged to review this database, accessible via the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DuvjKedusNPxLQz\_EWZZUfjiPs8DcMo A/edit?usp=sharing&rtpof=true&sd=true

All researchers who have published in SCOPUS Q1 journals with a University of Peradeniya affiliation in 2024 must verify that their publications are accurately listed in this database. If any Q1 publications are missing, researchers are kindly requested to inform the Secretary of the University Research Council (secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk) no later than **May 15th, 2025**.

This initiative underscores the University of Peradeniya's commitment to fostering high-quality research and recognizing the significant contributions of its faculty. Publication in SCOPUS Q1 journals signifies a high level of impact and visibility within the global academic community. The forthcoming incentive mechanism will further encourage and support researchers in their pursuit of excellence in research and scholarly output

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Procurement of Chemicals, Equipment, and Consumables in Sri Lanka (as per Procurement Guideline 2024)

#### 1. What procurement guidelines should I follow from 2025 onwards?

The "Procurement Guidelines - 2024 for Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services" are effective from January 1, 2025. These guidelines repeal and replace the 2006 guidelines and all related circulars and directives.

#### 2. What types of goods do these guidelines cover?

The guidelines apply to the procurement of all goods, including chemicals, laboratory and office equipment, and consumables.

### 3. What procurement methods can be used for chemicals, equipment, and consumables?

Commonly applicable methods include:

- Shopping (National/International)
- Direct Contracting (Purchasing)
- National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
- International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
- Limited International Competitive Bidding
- Limited National Competitive Bidding

#### 4. What are the limits for direct purchasing?

The Vice Chancellor may approve up to Rs 500,000 under exceptional circumstances, when procurement from a single source is more advantageous than following the competitive methods. This method is appropriate under the following circumstances as specified under the Procurement Guideline 3. 1. 6;

- When the price or rates are fixed and regulated by regulatory bodies,
- When standardization of equipment, for compatibility with the existing equipment, may justify additional purchases of the same type of goods
- Where the price is reasonable and no price benefit can be gained from competition.
- When the product ownership of the required equipment is held by the Supplier and obtainable only from one source, such as software, textbooks, and spare parts and no alternative equipment or products with equivalent performance characteristics are available.

The VC can approve goods and services directly from the open market up to Rs 200,000 provided that the economy of procurement is ensured. This authority is used under the personal supervision of the VC.

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#### 5. How is the 'Advance' process categorized?

To initiate this, you must submit an 'Advance' request form accompanied by a tentative budget outlining the intended goods. This submission serves as a request for prior approval from the Vice Chancellor before the purchase can be made. The 'Advance' method is applicable for purchases with a detailed list of items and an estimated total cost not exceeding Rs 100,000.

#### 6. What is the shopping method, and when is it used?

Shopping is used when following more competitive procedures are ineffective due to cost and efficiency. The shopping method may be selected for the procurement of;

- Goods of small value which are readily available off the shelf;
- Small value items for which the specifications are standard; and
- Frequently procured Non- Consultancy services which are of small value.

Sealed quotations are invited from registered or reputed suppliers by using the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) published by the National Procurement Commission. Verbal or telephone quotations are not allowed. A minimum number of days that should be allowed under Shopping (National), to submit quotations is 7 calendar days.

#### 7. How are suppliers selected under the shopping method?

SUPPLIERS MUST BE:

- Registered Bidders (Supplier Registration List)
- Reputed suppliers listed in the telephone directories and e-commerce websites, or reputed suppliers in the market.

### 8. Are quotations required to be submitted in a specific format under the shopping method?

Yes. Sealed quotations are obtained after issuance of the Request For Quotations (RFQ), which articulates the specifications and basic conditions for procurement.

Secured electronic submissions are also allowed. When e-GP is used by the officers who are handling procurement activities at the Financial Administration Division and the Faculty level.

#### 9. What are the authority limits for shopping?

The UPC can approve up to 20 million, and the RPC can approve up to 1 million.

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#### 10. How should the bids be evaluated?

The Bid Evaluation/Procurement Committee (BEC/PC) shall evaluate the bids in a step-by-step manner to ascertain the consideration of contract award. Bid Evaluation Criteria ensures the selection of the most responsive Bid/Proposal. Factors beyond price, such as quality, past experience, and financial capacity, are considered. For fair comparison, all bids/proposals are evaluated, excluding VAT.

#### 11. How is delivery verified?

Acceptance Committee checks goods/services for compliance with specifications, quantity, quality, delivery schedule, and documentation before acceptance.

#### 12. Are local suppliers given any preference?

Yes. This is applicable when domestically manufactured goods are competing with imported items. For domestically manufactured goods funded by the GOSL, up to 20% preference may be applied.

#### 13. What happens if only one bid is received?

Negotiation with the single substantially responsive bidder is allowed under specific conditions, especially if prices are above the Total Cost Estimate (TCE).

#### 14. What specifications are required for lab equipment and chemicals?

The specifications must be:

- Clear, functional, or technical (performance-based or conformance-based)
- Generic (brand names discouraged, alternatives allowed)
- Compliant with SLSI or international standards
- Include testing, maintenance, warranty, and spare parts details

#### 15. Submission of Procurement Details for Goods and Services under the Grant

All Principal Investigators awarded a Multidisciplinary Research Grant are required to submit the details of goods and services to be procured (including item name, quantity, unit price, total cost, etc.) to the Local Supplies Division via the Bursar. This information is necessary to update the University Procurement Plan in accordance with the grant requirements.



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