

Research Grants Policy

Document Information:

This is a translation of the Official Arabic version. In case of any Discrepancies, the Arabic version shall prevail.

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1. Purpose

This policy aims to establish the general framework governing research grants at the University, ensuring sound management, justice, transparency, and the enhancement of scientific research quality in alignment with the University's strategy, research priorities, and national priorities.

2. Scope

The provisions of this policy apply to all internal and external research grants managed through the University, and to all faculty members, researchers, and students participating in funded research projects.

3. Definitions

In the application of the provisions of this policy, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise.

Term	Definition
University	Qatar University
Board	Qatar University Board of Regents
President	President of Qatar University
Vice President	Vice President for Research and Innovation
Faculty Members	– Professor / Research Professor / Clinical Professor. – Associate Professor/ Research Associate Professor / Clinical Associate

	– Professor. – Assistant Professor / Research Assistant Professor / Clinical Assistant Professor. – Lecturer / Postdoctoral Researcher / Associate Researcher / Clinical Lecturer. – Teaching Assistant / Research Assistant / Clinical Teaching Assistant. – Academic Advisor, Librarian, Learning Support Specialist, and their equivalents.
Assistant Research Staff	Includes Postdoctoral Researchers, Senior Research Assistants, Research Assistant, and Technicians providing technical expertise.
Expert	Anyone providing high-level guidance and direction without direct involvement in task execution or delivery of outputs.
Research Grants	Total or partial financial or in-kind support for a specific research activity from within or outside the University. These are divided into internal research grants funded by Qatar University and external grants provided by various governmental or non-governmental institutions to support scientific research, in addition to institutional collaborative grants between Qatar University and external entities.
Conflict of Interest	A situation or condition in which any person involved in a research grant has a personal interest, material or moral, direct or indirect, that conflicts or potentially conflicts with their research

	duties or University job duties, including their commitment to integrity, neutrality, and the protection of public funds and University interests.
Assets	All resources owned, managed, or acquired by the University, wholly or partially, through research grants of any type, nature, or legal form. This includes material or immaterial, financial or non-financial, existing or future assets with financial, scientific, operational, or institutional value. It includes, without limitation, data, outputs, rights, benefits, returns, and partnerships arising from or related to research activities.
Graduate Studies Grants	Granted to attract outstanding students in Master's and Doctoral programs, including grants for Qatari, international, and resident students, as well as comprehensive joint funding grants for graduate students with external parties.
Postdoctoral Research Grants	Granted to attract outstanding researchers holding a PhD, from inside or outside Qatar, to support advanced research activities that contribute to developing Qatar University's research capabilities and align with the University's core research pillars.
Research Incentives	Financial allocations paid to researchers participating in externally funded research projects, according to approved University regulations, to enhance research performance and encourage distinguished scientific production.
Indirect Costs	General institutional expenses associated with supporting and implementing research activities and funded projects that cannot

	be directly attributed to a specific research project. These include costs for providing and operating infrastructure, administrative, technical, and regulatory services supporting scientific research, within approved percentages and allocations and according to the conditions of funding agencies and approved University policies and procedures.
Distinguished Student	A student demonstrating exceptional academic excellence in their field, with promising research capabilities, leadership potential, and tangible knowledge contributions qualifying them to successfully transition to graduate studies and contribute to the development of knowledge and society.

4. Policy Provisions

Article (1)

Legal Nature of Research Grants

Research grants are institutional resources dedicated to scientific research purposes. Their management and implementation are subject to relevant laws, bylaws, the provisions of this policy, approved regulations and procedures, as well as the policies of the granting agencies and funding contracts.

Article (2)

Governing Principles

Research grants are managed according to the following principles:

1. Academic and ethical integrity.
2. Transparency and equal opportunity.
3. Accountability and sound management of financial resources.
4. Quality and efficiency in implementation.
5. Alignment with the University and State strategy.

Article (3)

Risk Management

The University is committed to establishing effective mechanisms to manage risks associated with the research grants it manages and regulates.

Article (4)

Eligibility for Grants

Eligibility to apply for and receive research grants is determined according to approved regulations, considering scientific competence, implementation capacity, and institutional commitment, without prejudice to the principle of equal opportunity.

Article (5)

Regulation of Multiple Grants and Research Load

When awarding internal research funding, a balance must be maintained between the number of grants assigned to a single researcher and their actual capacity for implementation to ensure added value, quality of outputs, and equal opportunity.

Article (6)

Obligations of Researchers

Researchers participating in research grants are committed to:

1. Implementing the project according to approved objectives.
2. Complying with relevant laws, bylaws, and policies.
3. Preserving the grant's resources and outputs.
4. Adhering to the ethical and professional standards of scientific research.

Article (7)

Obligations of the University

The University is committed, within available means, to providing the institutional framework supporting research grant management, monitoring implementation, and ensuring compliance with approved financial and regulatory controls.

Article (8)

Conflict of Interest

All participants in research grants and their management are committed to avoiding any conflict of interest that may affect, or is likely to affect, the neutrality of research decisions, the integrity of implementation, or the safety of scientific outputs. Everyone related to grant management or researchers must disclose any conflict of interest according to approved University policies and comply with any regulatory measures taken in this regard.

Article (9)

Suspension or Termination of Grants

A research grant may be suspended or terminated in cases specified by relevant policies and

implementation procedures, including material breach of grant conditions, scientific or ethical violations, or requirements of the granting agency, according to approved controls.

Article (10)

Referral to Related Policies

Matters related to intellectual property, scientific publication, institutional affiliation, research ethics, and data protection are subject to the University's approved policies and bylaws, without prejudice to the provisions of this policy.

Article (11)

Ownership of Assets, Data, Research Outputs, and Innovations

All material and immaterial assets, research data, scientific outputs, research products, and innovations acquired or developed wholly or partially through research grants managed via the University are considered institutional assets. Ownership belongs to the University unless explicitly stated otherwise in an approved research agreement or contract.

Article (12)

Classification of Research Grants and Addition of New Grants

1. Research grants at the University shall be classified into primary categories, taking into account the nature of funding, research scope, objectives, and its scientific and strategic impact, as determined by the approved regulations and procedures.
2. The classification of research grants shall consider supporting areas of research excellence, promoting applied and basic research, building research capacities, and achieving scientific and societal impact, in alignment with the University's strategy, its research priorities, and national priorities.



3. The University may create or add new types of research grants as required by scientific research enhancement or strategic partnerships, or the university's institutional positioning at both national and international levels.
4. Creation or amendment of grant classifications is based on a proposal from the Vice President and approval from the President in a manner that ensures alignment with the institutional strategy and the sound governance of research resources.
5. The creation of new research categories or the modification of their classification shall not prejudice the general provisions set forth in this policy, or any relevant policies and regulations.

Article (13)

Research Incentives

1. Research incentives are paid from external research grants according to approved contracts to encourage research excellence and quality scientific production and in a manner that contributes to achieving the university's strategic goals and research priorities. They are granted according to objective and fair criteria and the grant's financial allocations.
2. Research incentive payments to the Lead Principal Investigator or Principal Investigator may not exceed two months' basic salary per academic year, regardless of the number of grants held by them.

Article (14)

Assistant Research Staff and Experts

The University may, within approved financial allocations, appoint assistant research staff and students or utilize experts for research grants whenever it is required. Appointments are for a fixed term linked exclusively to the grant and its objectives; and end or are suspended upon the



grant's completion, termination, or suspension, as the case may be. Salaries and benefit packages for these categories within the research grants regulations and procedures are determined according to research grant procedures and in accordance with the University's approved policies and procedures regarding salaries and wages.

Article (15)

Participation in Scientific Events

Researchers' participation in scientific events approved within the grant budget shall be subject to the regulations applicable at the University or the requirements of the funding agencies pursuant to the signed agreements. This support shall not entail any additional financial obligation or independent entitlement outside the scope of the grant or after its expiration or termination.

Article (16)

Indirect Costs

1. The percentages of indirect costs from external research grant budgets shall be determined according to the funding agencies' requirements, if any, or in accordance with the approved regulations and procedures.
2. Indirect costs shall be allocated to support and enhance scientific research at the University. The regulations and procedures shall define the percentages, purposes, and mechanisms for their expenditure, in a manner that does not violate the expenditure policy for the University's private resources.



Article (17)

Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Research Grants

The University provides graduate studies grants and post-doctoral researcher grants aimed at attracting outstanding students to enhance scientific research. These include full or partial grants for Qatari, resident, and international students, as well as co-funding grants with internal or external entities, according to the mechanisms specified in the regulations and procedures. The University shall determine the number of grants annually in accordance with approved mechanisms, regulations, and procedures. These grants are awarded based on criteria of academic, research, personal, and leadership excellence, and are evaluated according to approved performance indicators. The relationship between the grant recipient and the University shall be governed by a specific research grant contract, which defines the rights and obligations of both parties, in accordance with the provisions of this policy and the regulations and policies applicable at the University.

Article (18)

Executive Regulations and Procedures

1. The executive regulations and procedures necessary for implementing the provisions of this policy shall be issued in accordance with the approved controls for adopting legislative instruments at the University.
2. The executive regulations and procedures shall be considered complementary to this policy and explanatory of its provisions, and they may not contain anything that contradicts it or exceeds its scope.
3. The executive regulations and procedures may be amended or updated whenever necessary, without prejudice to the essence of the general provisions contained in this policy.

Article (19)

Transitional Provisions

1. The provisions of this policy shall apply to existing research grants from its effective date to the extent that it does not conflict with previously approved terms or rights acquired under effective decisions or agreements.
2. Research grants existing at the time this policy comes into effect shall continue to be subject to the regulations and procedures under which they were approved until their expiration or amendment in accordance with approved frameworks and procedures.
3. The competent authority may take the necessary transitional measures to ensure the alignment of existing grants with the provisions of this policy, without prejudice to existing contractual or legal obligations.

Article (20)

Implementation

All competent authorities, each within their respective jurisdiction, shall implement the provisions of this policy, and any provision that contradicts its content shall be repealed.