**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION – 2025

**SPECIAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**

The NSF supports R & D activities of Sri Lankan scientists in all fields of Science & Technology, the outputs and outcomes of which will ultimately benefit the Sri Lankan Society. Accordingly, the Competitive Research Grant Scheme facilitates and encourages scientists to carry out research of high standard, to strengthen the research base and promote R & D activities directed towards the socioeconomic development of the country.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHECK LIST** | |  |
|  | **Completed application form** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Concurrence of the Institution/s which facilitates the research (Item No. 19)** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Narrative CVs of all Investigators** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Information of Industry/s Collaborating with this Project; if any (Annex I)** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Information of Collaborator/s; if any (Annex II)** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Gantt chart** |  |
|  |  |  |

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**LATE, INCOMPLETE AND INACCURATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED**

**SECTION A**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Project Title**  *The title of the project should be brief, reflect concisely and accurately the proposed project and intelligible to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Applicants are advised to avoid titles which convey a distant or potential application of the proposed work, or a greater aspiration or goal than is to be expected from the proposed work.* | |
|  | |
| **2. Applicants**  *Applicants for the Research Grants Scheme must be citizens of and residing in Sri Lanka registered with the STMIS database of the NSF.*  *Those who wish to read for postgraduate degrees under the proposed project are not eligible to be Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators. 0* | |
| **1.1 Principal Investigator**  *Principal Investigator (PI) should be in the permanent cadre of his/her institution.*  *PI should have a postgraduate research degree (PhD, MPhil) and publications/ patents in the relevant area. Applicants with MSc, MD or MS qualifications should have minimum of one year research component in the course and/ or publications in the relevant area.*  ***Senior researchers*** *as well as* ***early carrier researchers*** *(Less than 40 years of age and within 04 years of obtaining postgraduate degree) are encouraged to apply.* | |
| Name and Designation:  Institution:  Highest academic qualification obtained:  Date of obtaining above qualification:  NIC No. :  STMIS Reg. No. : | Mailing address :  Telephone  Office :  Mobile :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| 1.1.1 Describe knowledge and research experience in the area related to the project work (*Please do not include publications;* *word limit -100 words*) | |
| 1.1.2 Planned leave abroad (Study Leave, Sabbatical Leave, etc.) / Retirement during the project period: | |
| 1.1.3 If the PI is planning to take leave (> 2 weeks) during the project period, state the responsible person for the project: | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **1.1.4 Research Grants Record (ongoing and completed) of the Principal Investigator (NSF and other funding sources)**  *Indicate only the 05 most recent grants of the PI* | | | | | | | Grant No. | Contribution (Principal Investigator/ Co-Investigator) | Approved duration of the Grant  *(Dates)* | Title of the Project | Source of support/  Total allocation | Status  [Ongoing/Completed/  Terminated/Cancelled] | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |
| **1.2 Co-Investigator/s**  *Co-Investigators should have postgraduate qualifications and research experience supported with publications/ patents.* | |
| **1.2.1 Co-Investigator – 1**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Highest academic qualification obtained:  Date of obtaining above qualification:  NIC No. :  STMIS Reg. No. : | Mailing address :  Telephone  Office :  Mobile :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| Describe knowledge and research experience in the area related to the project work (*Please do not include publications;* *word limit -100 words)* | |
| Planned leave abroad (Study Leave, Sabbatical Leave, etc.) / Retirement during the project period: | |
| **1.2.2 Co-Investigator – 2**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Highest academic qualification obtained:  Date of obtaining above qualification:  NIC No. :  STMIS Reg. No. : | Mailing address :  Telephone  Office :  Mobile :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| Describe knowledge and research experience in the area related to the project work (*Please do not include publications;* *word limit -100 words)* | |
| Planned leave abroad (Study Leave, Sabbatical Leave, etc.) / Retirement during the project period : | |
| **1.2.3 Co-Investigator – 3**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Highest academic qualification obtained:  Date of obtaining above qualification:  NIC No. :  STMIS Reg. No. : | Mailing address :  Telephone  Office :  Mobile :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| Describe knowledge and research experience in the area related to the project work (*Please do not include publications;* *word limit -100 words)* | |
| Planned leave abroad (Study Leave, Sabbatical Leave, etc.) / Retirement during the project period : | |
| **1.2.4 Co-Investigator – 4**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Highest academic qualification obtained:  Date of obtaining above qualification:  NIC No. :  STMIS Reg. No. : | Mailing address :  Telephone  Office :  Mobile :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| Describe knowledge and research experience in the area related to the project work (*Please do not include publications;* *word limit -100 words)* | |
| Planned leave abroad (Study Leave, Sabbatical Leave, etc.) / Retirement during the project period : | |
| **1.3 Collaborator/s**  *Any other member of the research group who does not meet the criteria for co-investigators and expatriates/ foreign scientists could be listed as Collaborators.*  *Letters of Consent should be provided – Annex II* | |
| **1.3.1 Collaborator – 1**  Name and Designation:  Institution:    Contribution expected to be provided for the research project: | Mailing address :  Telephone :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| **1.3.2 Collaborator – 2**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Contribution expected to be provided for the research project: | Mailing address :  Telephone :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| **1.3.3 Collaborator – 3**  Name and Designation:  Institution:  Contribution expected to be provided for the research project: | Mailing address :  Telephone :  Fax :  E-mail : |
| **1.4 Percentage of time the PI and CoIs could contribute to this project**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | Other | % of time spent on other projects | % of time spent on administration | | PI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | CoI - 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | CoI - 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | CoI - 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |
| **2. Institution/s** | |
| * 1. **Administering Institution**   *The institution that will administer the funds of the grant* | |
| * 1. **Research Institution**   *Institution where the major part of the research work will be caried out* | |
| * 1. **Other Institutions involved** | |

**SECTION B**

*\* Names and affiliations* ***should not be mentioned*** *in section B.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Project Title**  *The title of the project should be brief, reflect concisely and accurately the proposed project and intelligible to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Applicants are advised to avoid titles which convey a distant or potential application of the proposed work, or a greater aspiration or goal than is to be expected from the proposed work.* | |
|  | |
| **2. Research priority area**  *Please mention the research priority area.* | |
|  | |
| **3. Project Period** | |
| 1 Year 2 Years 3 Years  1 Year 6 months 2 Years 6 months | |
| **4. Summary** *(250 words)*  *The summary should contain an overview of the project objectives and brief description on how they ill be accomplished; and expected outputs.* | |
|  | |
| * 1. Give 3 – 5 keywords for the proposed project: | |
|  | |
| 1. **Research Problem**   *What is/are the problem/s your research project seeks to address. Provide background and justification for your research* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Comprehensive literature review (local and international including recent literature) AND the complete list of references in the relevant area.**   *Do not highlight or underline names of investigators in the reference list* | | |
| 6.1 International | | |
|  | | |
| 6.2 Local | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Innovative potential of the proposed work** | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Overall aim and specific objectives of the proposed work** | | |
| 8.1 Overall Aim | | |
|  | | |
| 8.2 Specific Objectives | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Expected outputs in terms of research work**   *State the deliverables expected to be achieved at the end of the project.* | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Expected outcomes**   *State the significance of the research outputs for society and country.* | | |
|  | | |
| 10.1 Detail the direct and indirect contributions of the project to the national economy  *(maximum 200 words)* | | |
|  | | |
| **11. Indicate which Sustainable Development Goal/s (SDGs) your research project will address**  [*http://www.statistics.gov.lk/sdg/*](http://www.statistics.gov.lk/sdg/) | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Methodology**   *Complete only the relevant sections* | | |
| 12.1 Describe the study design | | |
|  | | |
| 12.2 Describe the Methodology | | |
|  | | |
| 12.3DescribeExperimental design where applicable | | |
| 12.3.1 Sample size calculation | | |
| 12.3.2 Data/sample collection | | |
| 12.3.3 Study site | | |
| 12.3.4 Study group and controls | | |
| 12.3.5 Validation and quality control of methods | | |
| 12.3.6 Cost effectiveness of proposed methodology | | |
| 12.4 Describe the method of data analysis | | |
| **13. Work plan**  *Please attach the monthly Gantt Chart to cover the proposed study, as per the format below.* | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Specific objectives** | **Activities** | | **Timeline (Gantt Chart)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **Key Performance Indicators**  **(KPI)** | | Year 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Year 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | J | | F | M | A | M | | J | | J | | A | S | O | N | | D | J | | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |  | | O | N | D | |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | No | Year 2 | | | |  | | Year 3 | | | | | | | | | Q1 | Q2 | |  | | | Q3 | | Q4 | | Q1 | | Q2 | | Q3 | | | Q4 | | | | 1 |  |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | | | 2 |  |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | | | 3 |  |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | | | 4 |  |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | | | 5 |  |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |   Format Only  Format Only | | |
| 1. **Authorization**   *(Ethical clearance/necessary permission**should be submitted along with the application or within one month of the deadline for submission of applications)* | | |
| * 1. **Ethical consideration** | | |
| Relevance to the project | Relevant Not relevant | |
| If relevant, indicate status with evidence | Received Applied Intending to apply | |
| * 1. **Permission from relevant authorities (Dept. of Wildlife, Forest Department, CEA etc.)** | | |
| Relevance to the project | Relevant Not relevant | |
| If relevant, indicate status with evidence | Received Applied Intending to apply | |
| * 1. **Material Transfer Agreement** | | |
| Relevance to the project | Relevant Not relevant | |
| If relevant, indicate status with evidence | Signed Arrangements made to sign | |
| 1. **Budget** | | |
| 15.1 Financial support | | |
| Is the proposed project currently being funded by/ planning to apply for funding to any other source?  Yes No | | |
| If Yes, state the funding source and clearly explain why co-funding is needed. | | |
| 15.2 Major equipment and other facilities available at the institutions of the Investigators for the research project | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Equipment** | **Location at the institution** | **NID\* reference No.** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |   \* NID: [National Instrument Database](https://nid.nsf.gov.lk/index.html) | | |
| **15.3 Summary of Budget**  *Funds should be requested only for essential items with adequate justification.*  *Refer Annex III for rates of payments for Personnel and Travel & Subsistence votes*. | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 1. **Personnel** 2. Research Student\* 3. Technical Assistant 4. Labour/ Other | 1st Year | 2nd Year | 3rd Year | Total | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | Sub Total (Personnel) |  |  |  |  | | **(2) Equipment** |  |  |  |  | | **(3) Consumables** |  |  |  |  | | 1. **Sample analysis (if outsourced)** |  |  |  |  | | 1. **Statistical analysis** |  |  |  |  | | 1. **Postgraduate registration fees** |  |  |  |  | | 1. **Travel & Subsistence**   *(for field visits only)* |  |  |  |  | | 1. **Miscellaneous** |  |  |  |  | | **GRAND TOTAL \*\*\*** |  |  |  |  |   \* **Full-time Research Students registering for a postgraduate degree, can be assigned only for Principal Investigators with two years of research experience after their own postgraduate degree.**  **\*\* For full time Research Students, not registering for postgraduate degree funds will be provided only up to two years.**    **\*\*\* For Principal Investigators who had not received any research grants before (NSF or other funding sources), the duration of the project should not exceed two years and the total budget should not exceed**  **Rs 3 million (excluding allocations for Research Personnel).**  **Applicants from the Non-State Sector, please refer the guidelines for Non-State Sector applicants.** | | |
| 1. **Budget justification** | | |
| **16.1 Personnel**  *Requests for personnel for the proposed project should not be made unless they are absolutely necessary. The Investigators should indicate and justify the type of personnel required.* | | |
| 1. Research Student\* 2. Full time for ……………………… years/ months 3. Detailed description of work to be carried out by the Research Student:-        1. Research Student will be registering for a postgraduate degree – Yes No   If Yes, PhD MPhil | | |
| 1. Technical Assistant 2. Full time/part time for ……………………… years/ months 3. Detailed description of work to be carried out by the Technical Assistant:- | | |
| 1. Labourers 2. No. of labourers required…………………………….. 3. Time period ……………………… days/months per labourer 4. Detailed description of work to be performed:- | | |
| **16.2 Equipment**  *A complete description of equipment required and a full justification must be given. Indicate the make, type, model No., supplier, quantity etc. Also attach brochures.*  *Prices should be given in rupee equivalent (calculated at current exchange rate + 20%).*  *Maximum limit of this vote is Rs. 1,000,000/-. Equipment costing more than Rs 1,000,000 should be requested under the Research Equipment Grants Scheme of the NSF.* | | |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Equipment type/ Model/ Supplier** | **Qty** | **Estimated Cost (Rs.)** | **Availability of the Equipment at the Department/ Faculty/ Institution** | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | TOTAL |  |  |  |   **Justification for each Equipment for the project:** | | | |
| **16.3 Consumables**  *Attach the list and give a complete description of type (eg: Chemicals, glassware specific to the project), quantity and estimated cost with justification. Avoid over-estimation and include only the necessary consumables for this project.* | | |
|  | | |
| **16.4 Sample analysis** (if outsourced) | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Year | Type of sample and analysis | No. of samples | Estimated cost | Place of analysis | | 1st Year |  |  |  |  | | 2nd Year |  |  |  |  | | 3rd Year |  |  |  |  | | | |
| **16.5 Statistical analysis** | | |
| Justification for requesting funds | | |
| **16.6 Postgraduate registration**  Breakdown of fees during the project period *(Refundable deposits will not be reimbursed)* | | |
| 1st Year | | |
| 2nd Year | | |
| 3rd Year | | |
| **16.7 Travel & Subsistence**  *Funds can be requested only for field visits related to the project. As far as possible the Investigator should combine field work under the project with his/her work in the Institution. What should be requested for is additional travelling that cannot be carried out in the course of the Investigator’s other duties.*  *Give a detailed breakdown for each year with justifications of the cost figures given in summary budget. Indicate no. of field visits, places to be visited and any other relevant details.* | | |
| 1st Year   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Travel | | | | | | Purpose of visits | Places to be visited | Distance (Km) | No. of visits | Total cost for transport | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |   Subsistence for above field visits (please give calculation): | | |
| 2nd Year   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Travel | | | | | | Purpose of visits | Places to be visited | Distance (Km) | No. of visits | Total cost for transport | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |   Subsistence for above field visits (please give calculation): | | |
| 3rd Year   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Travel | | | | | | Purpose of visits | Places to be visited | Distance (Km) | No. of visits | Total cost for transport | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |   Subsistence for above field visits (please give calculation): | | |
| **16.8 Miscellaneous**  *Give complete breakdown with estimated cost.*  *Funds for miscellaneous should not exceed 10% of the total cost of the project. Funds for administrative cost and contingencies/unforeseen expenses cannot be considered.* | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Item/s | Justification | Estimated Cost | | | | | 1st Year | 2nd Year | 3rd Year | Total | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | |
| **SECTION C**  *\* Names and affiliations* ***should not be mentioned*** *in section C.* | | |
| 1. **Special concerns in the review of the application**   *Applicants may indicate persons, that they think should not review the project for reasons of conflict, for consideration by NSF* | | |
|  | | |
| **18. Signatures of Investigators *(to be printed, signed, scanned and sent)*** | | |
| 1. **………………………………**   (Principal Investigator)   1. **………………………………**   (Co-Investigator -1)   1. **………………………………**   (Co-Investigator -2)   1. **………………………………**   (Co-Investigator -3) | ……………………….........  Date | |
| **19. Recommendations *(to be printed, get it signed and send the scanned copy)*** | | |
| *When forwarding the application, the Signatories are expected to consider the following aspects:*   * *Principal Investigator is a permanent staff member* * *No duplication in funding* * *The applicant will be able to devote sufficient time to carry-out the project.*   ***(If the applicants are from different Institutions, recommendations from each Institution should be submitted)*** | | |
| **19.1 For Principal Investigators from Universities** | | |
| I confirm that I have read the application and that the applicant is a permanent staff member and facilities will be made available for this project (Refer Item 15.2). The application is recommended.  ……………………………………………...…… …………………………..  Name and Signature of Head of the Department Date | | |
| I recommend and forward the application.  …………………………………….… …………………………..  Signature of Dean of the Faculty Date | | |
| I recommend and forward the application.  ……………………………………….… …………………………..  Signature of the Vice Chancellor Date | | |
| **19.2 For Principal Investigators from Institutions/Organizations (Other than Universities)** | | |
| *When forwarding the application, the Signatories are expected to consider the following aspects:*   * *Principal Investigator is a permanent staff member* * *no duplication in funding* * *the applicant will be able to devote sufficient time to carry-out the project.*   ***(If the applicants are from different Institutions, recommendations from each Institution should be submitted)***  I confirm that I have read the application and that the applicant is a permanent staff member and facilities will be made available for this project (Refer Item 15.2). The application is recommended and forwarded.  …………………………………………….… …………………………..  Signature of Head of Institution/Organization Date | | |
| **For Co-Investigators (from universities/other institutions)**  *If there are more than three Co-Investigators, please insert additional recommendations.* | | |
| **19.3 For Co-Investigator I**  I confirm that I have read the application and that the facilities will be made available for this project (Refer Item 15.2). The application is recommended.  …………………………………………….… …………………………..  Signature of Head of Department/Institution Date  **For Co-Investigator II**  I confirm that I have read the application and that the facilities will be made available for this project (Refer Item 15.2). The application is recommended.  …………………………………………….… …………………………..  Signature of Head of Department/Institution Date | | |

***Annex I***

|  |
| --- |
| ***For Industry/s Collaborating with this Project*** |

(To be filled by the Industry Partner)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the Company/s**  Address  Contact researcher/person  (Please attach a CV) | |
| **Contribution of funds towards the project** | |
| Vote/ Item | Amount (Rs.) |
|  |  |
| **Facilities that can be made available for the research project** | |
| **Office Laboratory/hrs per week**  Space:  Equipment:  (Type)  Other  (Please specify) | |
| Any other comments | |

……………………………….. …………………………………………….

Date Name and Signature of the Industry Partner

***Annex II***

|  |
| --- |
| ***Consent to be a Collaborator of a Research Project*** |

(To be signed by the Collaborator/s)

**Director General**

**National Science Foundation**

**Research Project on - ……………………………………………..**

This is to convey my willingness to work as a collaborator of the research project referred to above, supporting and contributing to the realization of the project objectives stated in the grant application.

I understand the support and assistance to be extended to the research team by providing necessary facilities and/or expert opinion and guidance to carry-out the project successfully.

Yours sincerely,

…………………………………….

(Signature)

Name of the Collaborator : ……………………………………………

***Annex III***

|  |
| --- |
| ***Prevailing Rates of Payments for Estimation of the Budget*** |

1. Monthly allowance of Research Students

Registered for a PhD or MPhil - Rs. 60,000/=

Not registered for a postgraduate research degree - Rs. 50,000/=

1. Monthly allowance of Technical Assistants

With G.C.E. (A/L) or / G.C.E. (O/L) Qualifications - Rs. 25,000/=

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1. Subsistence rates – Have to be paid according to Government Circulars –

*Management Service Circular No. 34*

Grantee - Maximum - Rs. 500/= (according to the salary)

Research Students allowance - Rs. 500/=

Technical Assistants allowance - Rs. 400/=

1. Travel – Rs. 25/- per km (NSF rate)
2. Labourers - Rs. 739.53 + C.O.L Rs. 260.00 per day + Interim Allowance Rs. 76.13 - As per DMS 02/2016 Circular

***An electronic version of the completed application (MS Word and PDF formats) should be e-mailed to*** [rgrants@nsf.gov.lk](mailto:rgrants@nsf.gov.lk) **on or before 3.00 p.m. on 14th February 2025.**

For more details on the Competitive Research Grant Scheme please refer NSF website ***(***[***www.nsf.gov.lk***](http://www.nsf.gov.lk)***)***