

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS – YEAR 2025

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) will evaluate grant applications for research projects and decide on an appropriate allocation of funds. The funds will be channelled directly through the Dean/Head of Department to the Principal Investigator of the project. Research applications will be evaluated mainly on scientific merit. National relevance of the proposal would be an added advantage.

The purpose of this grant scheme is to promote high quality multidisciplinary research in diverse fields in order to develop the capacity of the academics and also to help the policy makers in Sri Lanka to utilize the knowledge generated through research for national development.

However, the OUSL would not intervene to prioritize research themes since that would imply interfering with intellectual freedom and originality.

Grants will be open to any member of the academic staff of the OUSL. All applicants should have at least a Master's degree with a thesis based on research from a recognized university. Grant application should be made by the Principal Investigator on prescribed forms available from the OUSL. Grants are awarded for a period of one year up to a maximum of three years. The Principal Investigator should have postgraduate qualifications with proven research track record and the Co-Investigators must have research experience in the relevant field.

Researchers who have already obtained research grants under this scheme and continuing their research projects are not entitled to apply for these grants until their research projects are successfully completed.

Funding Specifications

§ Funding will be considered for:

- Equipment and minor equipment
- Consumables
- Travel within the country
- Allowance for research assistants (as and when necessary)

§ Funds will not be available for salaries/emoluments of investigators / collaborators.

Funding will be approved for one year at a time, but the program is designed to fund projects over multiple years not exceeding three years. Extension of grants for subsequent years will depend on rigorous evaluation of the work already done in the previous year. A progress report must be submitted at the end of first six months of the Project in order to consider the granting of further funding to continue the project. The Grants will typically fall within the range of Rs. 500,000/- to 1,000,000/- a year.

Material can be purchased in terms of the procurement procedures of the OUSL. The Principal Investigator has to give detailed specifications in the grant application of all equipment

requested (with quotations for the same). This should include a scientific justification of its need for the work, evidence of competence in its use and its upkeep.

The research grant will provide sufficient funds to purchase essential equipment so that it will contribute significantly to institutional infrastructure development. It is expected that equipment already available in the collaborating departments / institutions are also used for the project.

Inventorized major and minor equipment will remain the property of the OUSL. Upon termination of a project the OUSL retains the right to transfer it to another project financed or executed by the OUSL if no prospective immediate use is apparent (as judged by the OUSL) in the Department/Institution where it served the project

If postgraduate students are requested, the Principal Investigators/Co Investigators are required to register postgraduate students for Ph.D/M.Phil degree in the relevant faculty of the university. All Principal Investigators are required to obtain the approval of the proposed Ph.D/M.Phil project by the Research and Higher Degree Committee and, where appropriate, the approval of the Ethical Committee of the OUSL. The Principal Investigator is solely responsible for the postgraduate student's activities.

The responsibility of successful implementation of the project will lie solely with the Principal Investigator. The Principal Investigator will undertake to execute the project funded by the OUSL for the duration of the grant in the department/faculty to which the Principal Investigator belongs and where the work will be mainly carried out.

Consequently, the grant application should be accompanied by a signed declaration of the Head of the Department and Dean of the Faculty assuring sustained infrastructural support of the Institution to the Principal Investigator and the research project for the duration of the grant. All co-investigators and collaborators should complete the relevant supplementary forms.

The name of the OUSL will figure in all publications as the address where the work was primarily carried out. Grants from the OUSL should be acknowledged in all publications. Reprints of publications issuing from the work should be filed with the OUSL.

The applications should be typed in 'Times New Roman' and Font size 12. Late, incomplete and ineligible applications will not be reviewed.

Completed application with two hard copies and a soft copy should reach the Research Division of OUSL on or before 15th November 2024. The soft copy should be emailed to dirresearch@ou.ac.lk.