

**Terms of Reference of the Grant Call for “Funding of the Doctoral Educational Programmes” 2018
administered by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia**

Article 1. General terms

1. The aim of the grant call for “Funding of the Doctoral Educational programmes”(hereinafter referred to as “grant call”) is to use/operate intellectual potential in the higher educational institutions (HEIs) and support creation of the appropriate environment for young scientists’ research capabilities. The call also aims at revealing young talented and successful researchers, to improving research quality in Georgia and young scientists’ integration into the international scientific society through supporting doctoral studies, which comply with the modern international standards. The call also aims at improving scientific-research component of HEIs’ doctoral programmes and quality of higher education in general.

2. Applications for the grant call can be submitted in the following scientific fields:

- Natural sciences;
- Engineering and technology;
- Medicine and health sciences;
- Agricultural sciences;
- Social sciences;
- Humanities;
- Georgian studies.

3. Individual educational research grants can be only obtained in the frame of this grant call.

4. Grants are issued based on the open competition.

5. The grant call is funded by the state budget of Georgia and administered by the Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) – Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG).

Article 2. Grant call participants and terms of participation

1. Participants of the grant call must be citizens of Georgia and students of the doctoral educational programme implemented by Georgian HEI.

2. Participant of this grant call must have a thesis supervisor – person with PhD or equal academic degree, academic / research staff of HEI or/and scientific-research institution.

3. Participant of this grant call might have:

a) Thesis co-supervisor – person with PhD or equal academic degree, academic / research staff or HEI or/and scientific-research institution.

b) Consultant – Georgian or foreign country citizen with PhD or equal academic degree, academic / research staff of HEI or/and scientific-research institution who will provide consultation on research related specific tasks.

4. Research infrastructure of HEI, scientific-research institution and/or any other legal/natural person can be used for project implementation.

Article 3. Basic financial requirements

1. Minimum duration of the project might be 6 months, maximum – 36 months. The duration of each reporting period is 6 months.
2. Project should start no later than November 1, 2018.
3. The requested funding for every reporting period should not exceed 10 500 GEL.
4. The requested funding amount from SRNSFG and project duration should comply with student's status and educational terms accordingly with the following scheme:

For PhD students with active student status those are enrolled in	For PhD students with suspended student status, who have completed	Maximum duration of the project	Maximum funding amount requested from SRNSFG
---	None term	36 months	63 000 GEL
1st term	One term	30 months	52 500 GEL
2nd term	Two terms	24 months	42 000 GEL
3rd term	Three terms	18 months	31 500 GEL
4th term	Four terms	12 months	21 000 GEL
5 th or above - term	Five or more terms	6 months	10 500 GEL

5. Project's budget can cover the following categories of expenditure:

- a) Stipend (scholarship) for PhD student – the amount of stipend in the frames of one reporting period should not exceed 5250 GEL.
- b) Expenditure of technical equipment, laboratory supplies for educational and research process or/and costs of fieldwork (without per diem expenses).
- c) Expenditure of participation in international scientific event (conference, congress, workshop, seminar and etc.) for the purposes of the project and on the background of agreement with the thesis supervisor – this includes travel costs in the country and abroad, accommodation and per diem expenses, travel insurance, passport and travel related another documents (i.e., visa) costs, as well as registration costs.
- d) Expenditure of research visit abroad for the purposes of the project and on the background of agreement with the thesis supervisor – in the case of 12-36 months project the duration of research visit should not exceed 6 months per year, and in case of 6 months project – 3 months per year. In case of international joint educational programmes, the duration of research visit might be 6 months per year.
- e) Other costs necessary for educational and research process – might include payment of educational costs, purchase of printed/digital literature and computer programme, publication and patent obtaining costs, costs of stationary and travel in Georgia as well as all other costs those cannot be included in the above mentioned budget categories.

6. Project might have co-funding (additional funding source), which will be used to partially cover project related costs.

7. The price of laptop, which will be purchased in frames of the project, should not exceed 1250 GEL.

Article 4. Evaluation

1. The individual experts / group of individual experts evaluate the proposals submitted under the grant call “Funding of the Doctoral Educational Programmes”.

2. Individual experts/groups of individual experts evaluate the applications according to the defined evaluation criteria given below:

Criteria and definition	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+	Score-according to (A/B/C) category
1. Scientific-research project	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum 1 Maximum 9
1.1. Significance of research topic, novelty and uniqueness of the project, research problem formulation 1.2. Research aims and objectives 1.3. Research methodology 1.4. Scientific value of the expected research outcomes and/or potential application of the research outcomes and the dissemination plan 1.5. Interdisciplinarity										
2. Academic component	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum 1 Maximum 9
2.1. PhD student’s participation in local and international conferences, scientific-research projects, scientific productivity and articles (if any) 2.2. PhD student’s academic progress (transcript about										

<p>compulsory subjects and components of the MA/MSc educational programme)</p> <p>2.3. The compliance of competences of PhD student's thesis supervisor and consultant (if any) with research topic</p> <p>2.4. Local and international collaboration (if any) of the project and compliance of PhD student's research visit abroad with research topic</p>											
3. Project management and feasibility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum 1	Maximum 9
<p>3.1. Project timeframe (stages, dates and implementation) feasibility and compliance with research aims and objectives</p> <p>3.2. Compliance of the budget with research aims and objectives</p> <p>3.3. Compliance of the research infrastructure of the host/co-participant institution with the project aims and objectives</p>											
Total score:										Minimum - 3	Maximum - 27
<p>Final evaluation (Expert 's/group of experts' final evaluation according to the above given three criteria)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p>											
<p>Final comment on the project (Expert 's/group of experts' final comment according to the above mentioned three criteria):</p>											

3. Each of the 1-3 criteria (1 – scientific-research project; 2 – academic component; 3 – project management and feasibility) is evaluated by a 9 score system (1-9), where 1-3 scores correspond to

the C category, 4-6 scores correspond to the B category, 7-9 scores correspond to the A category. The maximum total score is 27.

4. The evaluation by scores per criterion can be explained as:

Score	Category	Rate	Definition
1	C-	Not applicable	Project does not meet the criteria or it cannot be evaluated due to the lack of information
2	C	Extremely poor	Project does not fully meet the criteria, evaluation is difficult due to the lack of information
3	C+	Poor	Project is inconsistent, it poorly meets the criteria. Project is substantially weak
4	B-	Satisfactory	Project meets the overall criteria, however it has weaknesses and contains significant amount of inaccuracies
5	B	Average	Project meets the overall criteria however its justification is unsatisfactory
6	B+	Above average	Project meets the criteria in overall, however its justification is unsatisfactory
7	A-	Good	Project meets the criteria very well, its justification is satisfactory, however

			it requires some improvements
8	A	Very good	Project meets the criteria very well. It is original and has high scientific value, however, it still requires certain improvements
9	A+	Excellent	Project is outstanding with high scientific potential. It meets the criteria very well.

5. The project's final evaluation should be based on and in compliance with the evaluation accordingly with a 9 score system (1-9) in all three criteria. It is explained as following:

Score	ABC category
21-27	A
10-20	B
3-9	C

6. In order to receive funding from SRNSFG it is required, but not sufficient precondition to receive 18 or more scores.

7. In case of equal scores priority will be given to the projects with the highest scores in first, second and third category (A/B/C) consequently. In case of equal scores in all three categories, priority will be given to the project with less budget.