

## Terms of Reference of the Grant Call for “the Research Grants for Young Scientists” 2018 administered by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia

### 1. General terms

1. The call aims to enhance the quality of the young scientists’ research through supporting their research projects, interdisciplinary scientific collaboration and integration in the international scientific activities as well as to support the development and improvement of the higher educational institutions in Georgia.
2. The call is funded by the state budget of Georgia; grants are issued within the framework of the open competition.
3. The Legal Entity of Public Law – Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG) administers the Call.

### 2. Participants and conditions of the Call

1. Young scientist together with the host institution can submit the proposal.
  - a) **Young scientist** – citizen of Georgia with PhD or equal academic degree, who has been awarded with a degree in the period of last 7 years before the announcement of the present call for applications/proposals and who is responsible for preparation and realization the project.
  - b) **Host institution** – Georgian organizations with research competence those are legal entities of public law, noncommercial legal entities, and/or higher education institutions.
2. The infrastructure of higher education institution and/or legal entity/natural person can be used for the project realization.
3. Young scientist should have a **Mentor** – academic/scientific personnel affiliated with a host institution with qualification and experience relevant to proposal-determined tasks. Mentor will assist young scientist to realize the project at host institution. A mentor should have PhD or equal academic degree. SRNSFG funding does not cover mentor’s activities.
4. Young scientist can have **advisor/advisors** who will consult her/him on scientific issues. Advisor should have PhD or equal academic degree and should be affiliated with academic/scientific personnel of a higher education institution. Advisor can be Georgian or foreign citizen.
5. No more than 2 people can be involved in the project as **supporting personnel**; the relevant argumentation should be provided. Supporting personnel include: laboratory assistant, undergraduate student, Bachelor, MA, PhD student of the host institution.
6. Young scientist can acquire a grant under the present granting scheme only twice.
7. Young scientist involved in an ongoing project of the Research Grants Call for Young Scientists is ineligible to participate in the announced grant call.

### 3. Basic financial requirements

1. Duration of the project is 2 years, while the duration of each reporting period is 6 months.

2. Annual amount of funding requested from the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG) should not exceed 30 000 GEL; funding requested for 2 years should not exceed 60 000 GEL.
3. Funding requested from SRNSFG can cover the following budget categories:
  - a) **Stipend for young scientist** (should not exceed 15 000 GEL annually);
  - b) **Research activity expenditure** (should not exceed 13 500 GEL annually) may include:
    - b.a) Materials and services necessary for laboratory operations: laboratory tools, chemical reagents, uniforms and other laboratory equipment, expenditure for the service necessary for the research. This category does not include expenditures for technics/research infrastructure;
    - b.b) Salary of supporting personnel - should not exceed 15% of the total funding amount requested from SRNSFG;
    - b.c) Fieldwork and expedition related costs: travels costs (fuel, rent of auto, costs of train, bus or any other means of transportation), accommodation costs, meal allowance, costs of equipment for fieldwork, per diem (in case of indicating per diem in the budget, meal allowance will not be covered);
    - b.d) Purchase of scientific/academic literature, including electronic materials and access to library foundations;
    - b.e) Expenditure of participation in scientific events (conferences, workshops, training, etc.) and / or research visit (registration fees, accommodation and per diem expenses, transportation costs). This category does not include visa and health insurance fees;
    - b.f) Professional association membership fee;
    - b.g) Costs of PC and technical equipment necessary for the research;
    - b.h) Dissemination and research results' presentation costs – article and/or monography publishing related costs;
  - c) **Overhead** (should not exceed 1 500 GEL annually). This category may include: costs of communication and communal (electricity, gas, water, targeted/municipal cleaning), bank service costs as well as, salary necessary for technical personnel/support of the grant, patent issuance and maintenance, tender organization and performance, as well as other indirect costs related with the implementation of the project (this category does not include the costs indicated in “a” and “b” paragraphs);
4. Project may include co-funding from the higher educational institution and/or any other organization. In case of co-funding, commitment letter indicating the amount of the co-funding should be submitted;
5. Travel costs are covered in compliance with the Decree № 220 dated as April 5, 2005 of the Minister of Finance of Georgia;
6. The following costs are forbidden: real estate purchase or leasing, reconstruction/renovation of the buildings, purchase of a car, tablet computer and mobile phone.
7. Cost of the laptop/notebook should not exceed 1 200 GEL.

#### 4. Evaluation

1. The individual experts / group of individual experts evaluate the proposals submitted under the call for applications/proposals “The Research Grants” for Young Scientists;
2. The ranking lists of proposals accordingly with the scientific fields are prepared on the background of the performed evaluations;
3. In order to receive funding from SRNSFG it is required, but not sufficient precondition is to receive 15 or more scores;
4. In case of equal scores priority is given to the proposals with the highest scores in first, second and third category (A/B/C) consequently;
5. In case of equal scores in all three categories, priority is given to the project with less requested budget;
6. The 10% of the total call budget of the call should be spent on the projects focused on Georgian Studies. The rest 90% of the budget will be dedicated to the projects focused on other scientific fields;
7. In case of budget residue, the amount will be spent on the projects in the ranking list with the score of 15 points or more out of the projects, which were not funded in frame of the call.

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
<b>1. Scientific-research project</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>Minimum 1</b> <b>Maximum 9</b>
1.1. Relevance, novelty and uniqueness of the project, problem formulation										
1.2. Research goals 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										
<b>2. Research team</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>Minimum 1</b> <b>Maximum 9</b>
2.1. Young scientist's scientific productivity (articles, participation in local and international conferences and research projects) 2.2. Local and international collaboration of the project										
<b>3. Project management and feasibility</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>Minimum 1</b> <b>Maximum 9</b>
3.1. Project timeframe (stages, dates and implementation) feasibility and compliance with the goals and objectives of the research 3.2. Compliance of the budget with the goals and objectives of the project 3.3. Compliance of the research infrastructure of the host/co-participant institution with the project goals and objectives										
<b>Total score:</b>										<b>Minimum - 3</b> <b>Maximum - 27</b>
Final evaluation (Expert 's final evaluation according to the above given three criteria)										
<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C										

Final comment / Summary (Expert 's final comment according to the above mentioned three criteria):

Each of the 1-3 criteria 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 score is 27.

Score	Category	Rate	Explanation
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 general criteria, however it has weaknesses and contains significant amount of inaccuracies
5	B	Average	Project meets the criteria in general, 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. Additional requirements to the selected/granted projects

The grantee is responsible to publish at least one scientific article on the basis of the research materials of the funded project in international peer-reviewed journals or proceedings of conference papers that are indexed in Scimago Journal Ranking, Scopus, Web of Science, ERIH plus as well as in the international peer-reviewed journals published with the financial support of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia: a) Transactions of A. Razmadze Mathematical Institute, and b) Annals of Agrarian Science are also accepted.