

Terms of Reference of the Grant Call for “Fundamental Research” 2018 administered by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia

Article 1. General terms

1. The aim of the grant call for “Fundamental Research” (hereinafter referred to as “grant call”) is to support the creation of new knowledge and theoretical and experimental analysis of ideas and concepts, phenomena and facts, theories and models. Funded research is not required to yield direct commercial benefits; however, it should provide the basis for long-term, socio-political, public, cultural and/or technical progress. The grant call facilitates the development of a competitive research environment, the improvement of the research quality, internationalization and compliance of Georgian research with international standards. The integration of research in the educational curricula of higher education institutions and fostering the scientific potential of young scientists by supporting their involvement in research.

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. 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 this grant call might be host institution, co-participant institution (if any) and the key personnel.

2. Project should have the **host institution** – Georgian organizations with research competence those are legal entities of public law, non-commercial legal entities, a/or higher education institutions. Host institution provides scientific team with the infrastructure necessary for the realization of the project. It is responsible for the reporting as well as project’s budget related financial issues and other tasks defined by the grant contract. Host institution is responsible for the project management and realization.

3. Project might have **co-participant organization(s)**. This might be Georgian organization(s) with research competence those are legal entities of public law, non-commercial legal entities, and/or higher education institutions. Co-participant institution(s) together with the host institution provide(s) scientific team with the infrastructure necessary for the realization of the project. Together with the host institution co-participant one is responsible for the reporting as well as project’s budget related financial issues and other tasks defined by the grant agreement.

4. Project must have **the key personnel** – Georgian or foreign citizen natural persons, responsible for the project implementation and related activities. Key personnel might be natural person with PhD, MA/MSc or their equal academic degree, PhD students, MA/MSc or clinical residency students.

5. Project should have **Principal Investigator (PI)** – Georgian or foreign country citizen with PhD or equal academic degree from the key personnel who will realize the project in the host institution, will lead the project and will be responsible for scientific results of the project and reporting on project related tasks and issues.

6. Project should have the **Coordinator** – Georgian citizen from the key personnel involved in the project management and administration and is responsible for project management and organizational issues.

7. Principal Investigator and Coordinator cannot be the same person.

8. Young scientist may be involved in the project. **Young scientist** – Georgian citizen with MA/MSc, PhD or equal academic degree, who was awarded with a degree in the period of 7 years before the announcement of the present call for applications; also PhD, MA/MSc and/or clinical residency programme students.

9. Supporting personnel may be involved in the project, too. **Supporting personnel** – Georgian and/or foreign citizens those are providing support to scientific team on technical tasks and issues. The functions of supporting personnel cannot be combined by the key personnel.

10. Foreign citizens, those are working on project related tasks and will consult key personnel in frames of the project can be involved in the project as consultants. **Consultant** cannot be the key personnel/grant recipient.

11. Project might have **co-funding** – legal or natural persons providing the co-funding for the research project additionally.

12. Research infrastructure of any other legal and natural persons can be used for project realization.

Article 3. Basic financial requirements

1. The project duration may be 2 or 3 years. Duration of each reporting period is 12 months.

2. The requested funding from SRNSFG and duration of the project should comply with the main scientific field of research accordingly with the following scheme:

Scientific field	Maximum annual budget	Maximum funding according to the project duration	
		2 years	3 years
1. Natural sciences	80 000	160 000	240 000

2. Engineering and technology 3. Medicine and health sciences; 4. Agricultural sciences; 7. Georgian studies- including above mentioned scientific fields (1-4)	GEL	GEL	GEL
5. Social sciences 6. Humanities 7. Georgian studies - including above mentioned scientific fields (5-6)	60 000 GEL	120 000 GEL	180 000 GEL

3. The project budget may include the following categories:

- a) Grant funding for the key personnel;
- b) Salary for supporting personnel;
- c) Travel expenses;
- d) Goods and services;
- e) Major assets;
- f) Overhead.

4. The expenditure of the requested funding from SRNSFG should meet the following criteria:

- a) Grant funding for the key personnel in the case of young scientists' involvement should not exceed 45000 GEL per year. From this total amount funding for young scientists should not exceed 15000 GEL per year and funding for experienced scientists – 30000 GEL per year (Grants).

In case of young scientists' involvement in the project, their participation in every reporting period is mandatory.

- b) Funding for the key personnel without participation of young scientists should not exceed 30000 GEL per year.
- c) Salary for supporting personnel should not exceed 5000 GEL per year in total.
- d) Overhead – Indirect costs required for realization of planned project activities should not exceed 7% of requested funding from SRNSFG in total.

5. Project budget can cover the publication costs – based on project outcomes, minimum one research article should be published in the international peer-reviewed publications.

6. Project budget can cover representative expenses and the honorarium of foreign consultant.

Article 4. Evaluation

1. Project evaluation criteria:

Criteria and explanation	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. Actuality of research theme/topic and innovation, formulation of the problem 1.2. Aims and goals of the research 1.3. Research methodology 1.4. Scientific value and/or potential practical applicability of expected results and dissemination plan										
2. Research team of the project	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum 1 Maximum 9
2.1. Compliance of Principal Investigator's achievements, qualification and competences with research project 2.2. Compliance of key personnel's qualification, competences and skills with research topic 2.3. Project's international and local partnership										
3. Project management and implementation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum 1 Maximum 9
3.1. Implementation and compliance of the project realization plan (stages, timeline and methodology of tasks and activities) 3.2. Compliance of budget with research aims and goals 3.3. Compliance of material, technical and intellectual environment/resources of host / co-participant institution with project's aims and goals 3.4. Project feasibility, risk analysis of project realization and ways to eliminate risks										
Sum of scores:										Minimum - 3 Maximum - 27
Final evaluation (Expert's/experts group's final evaluation according to the above given three criteria)										
<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C										

Final comment on the project (Expert 's/group of experts' final comment according to the above mentioned three criteria):

2. 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.

3. The evaluation by scores per criterion can be defined as follows:

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	Very 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 it lacks justification.
6	B+	Above average	Project meets the overall criteria, however its justification is unsatisfactory

7	A-	Good	Project meets the criteria very well, its justification is satisfactory, however requires some improvements
8	A	Very good	Project meets the criteria very well. It is authentic and has high scientific value, however, it still requires certain improvements
9	A+	Excellent	Project stands out with high scientific potential. It meets the criteria very well.

4. 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. Definition is given as follows:

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

5. In order to receive funding from SRNSFG it is required, but not sufficient precondition to receive 17 or more scores.

6. In case of equal scores priority is 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.