

# Terms of Reference of the Grant Call for “Fundamental Research” 2019 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 students or clinical resident.

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 or foreign country citizen with MA/MSc, PhD or equal academic degree, who was awarded with a degree in the period of 7 years before the call announcement year; also, PhD, MA/MSc students and/or clinical resident.
9. Supporting personnel may be involved in the project, too. **Supporting personnel** – Georgian or foreign citizens those are providing support to scientific team on technical tasks and issues. The key personnel should not undertake functions of supporting personnel.
10. Foreign citizens working on project related topics can be involved in the project as consultants and provide advises to key personnel. **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 can 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 scientific field accordingly with the following scheme:

Scientific field	Maximum annual budget	Maximum funding according to the project duration	
		2 years	3 years
1. Natural sciences 2. Engineering and technology 3. Medicine and health sciences; 4. Agricultural sciences; 7. Georgian studies- including above mentioned scientific fields (1-4)	80 000 GEL	160 000 GEL	240 000 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 should not exceed 40000 GEL per year.
- b) In case of young scientists' involvement in the project their funding should be at least 9000 GEL per year for each young scientist.
- 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 5% 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:

<b>1.Significance of the project</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Minimum 1 Maximum 5</b>
Significance of the project, actuality of the research topic, novelty/innovation of the research, formulation of the research aims and objectives, compliance of the research methodology with the research aims and objectives; Compliance of the scientific team's competency with the research topic. International and local collaboration of the project; Interdisciplinarity						
<b>2.Scientific efficiency</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Minimum 1 Maximum 5</b>

Novelty of the research expected outcomes, their scientific and practical importance, significance of the project outcomes for grant call goals and objectives and research outcomes dissemination plan and methodology (including indicators)						
<b>3.Project implementation</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Minimum 1 Maximum 5</b>
Efficiency and compliance of the project implementation plan (tasks and activity stages, dates and methods) with the research aims. Compliance of the budget and material-technical resources with the implementation of the planned tasks. Project sustainability, project implementation risk analysis and ways to eliminate them.						

2. Each of the 1-3 criteria (1 – Significance of the project; 2 – Scientific efficiency; 3 – Project implementation) is evaluated by a 5-score system (1-5). The maximum total score is 15.

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

Score	Rate	Definition
1	Poor	Project does not respond adequately to this particular criteria, it is hard to evaluate due to insufficient information.
2	Satisfactory	Project meets the general criteria, however, it contains significant amount of inaccuracies and weaknesses.
3	Good	Project meets the criteria well, however it has certain weaknesses
4	Very good	Project meets the criteria very well. It is authentic and has high scientific value, however, it still requires certain improvements
5	Excellent	Distinctive, high scientific quality project, which successfully meets all the criteria.

4. In order to receive funding from SRNSFG it is required, but not sufficient precondition to receive 11 or more scores.

5. In case of equal scores priority is given to the projects with the highest scores in first, second and third criteria consequently. In case of equal scores in all three criteria, priority will be given to the project with involvement of young scientist. In case of equal scores in this category, priority will be given to the project with less budget.