The Strategic Research Grant program allocates medium to large research grants for medium and long-term programs of primary national importance. This supports proposals which respond to strategic needs, ensuring research relevance, focus, quality and excellence. This may also be led by a local organization chosen by The Research Council for its experience in the research topic, with the aim of building national research capacities in strategic areas.

Program Objectives

- Conduct analysis and seek solutions for national challenges through scientific research
- Increase research and training in targeted areas to strongly enhance national economy and environment
- Enable research funding in areas of importance that achieve welfare in the Sultanate
- Develop the local research capacity and research excellence in identified strategic areas
- Direct national research in primary areas of national importance
- Consolidate leadership in key areas.
- Generate new knowledge and technology to strengthen Oman's industrial base, generate wealth, create employment, and improve public policies in economic and social areas
- Support the creation of teams and networks of scholars locally and internationally

Evaluation Criteria

The overall evaluation criteria are based on the following:

Compatibility

Proposals should be compatible with the program themes set

Relevance

The proposal must enhance with its outcomes new knowledge the research subject

Clarity

Proposals must be clear, comprehensive and unambiguous.

Literature Review & Analysis

Proposals must comprehensively survey the existing literature to gauge the current knowledge of the subject, as well as justify the need for the new research.

Measurability

Research should be conducted in such a way that outcomes are valid, measurable and relevant to the research program.

Research Methodology

Researcher must indicate the participants involved in the research and study, and the data collection methods must be clear and precise.

Project Planning & Administration

Details of the planning and administration of the project must be laid out clearly. This includes the use of financial and human resources and the availability of a research team if one has been proposed.

Research Team Capability

All research team members must have the qualifications, knowledge and skills needed to conduct the research.

Budget & Time frame Estimates

The proposal must include a realistic and reasonable time frame for the research, with a clearly detailed plan of each stage of the project. The budget should be reasonable and reflect all necessary expenses.

Ethics

The proposal must detail the ethical considerations of the study, including the best practice of scientific research. It must respect the culture and traditions of Oman and the harmony between the various components of Omani society.

National Capacity Building

The proposal should contribute in building the national research capacity

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of every strategic research project is responsible for the management of the program and issuing a call for proposals; with pre-selection and post-selection processes in relation to the research. This involves presenting a draft proposal, evaluating the proposal, negotiating with the selected research team on the agreement, and administrating financial and scientific reports during and after the project.

The selection of the Chair and Members of the committee for the allocation of the strategic grant funding is set on behalf of TRC based on their expertise or a job position of relevance to the funded project. The names of the committee members would be published in TRC's website.

Every steering committee consists of:

The Chair (able to vote) This role must display leadership qualities and play an important role in applying the research findings of the funded project. The Chair leads and manages the sessions with the Project Manager and communicates the reports and documents to TRC on behalf of the committee.

Vice Chair (able to vote) This role assumes the Chair's duties when absent, and a committee member role as the rest of the team in the Chair's presence.

Project Manager (able to vote) This role is voted by the committee members and may be requested to commit full-time or part-time to manage the research project. In case the suitable candidate is not available, the TRC Secretariat-General appoints on a part time basis a project manager from the budget allocated.