

SABIC RESEARCH GRANTS

In 1996, the Saudi Basic Chemical Industries (SABIC), Riyadh, announced the establishment of its applied research grants. Research proposals are invited from University faculty for submission to the University Research Office in areas related to industry. These include, but are not limited to:

- petrochemical, chemical, mineral and related industries;
- the use of fertilizers;
- industrial problems, including corrosion, environmental protection, work safety and industrial waste;
- the use of chemical and petrochemical products;
- energy use and environmental issues.

1. FORMAT OF THE PROPOSAL

The format of the research proposal should conform to the existing research proposals funded by the University (see Section 3.1.3).

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. A detailed budget should be prepared for each project. It should include both manpower and equipment & supplies.
2. The researchers will be paid as per the financial rules of the University. However, the total manpower cost should not exceed SR 50,000 per project. Moreover, the compensation for the PI should not exceed SR 1,200 per month and should not exceed SR 1,000 per month for the CO-I. The remaining sum should be utilized for purchase of equipment and/or supplies.
3. The budget should be restricted to a maximum of SR 75,000 with a one-year project duration.
4. At any given point of time, a faculty member will be entitled to manpower compensation for a maximum of two projects funded through the Deanship of Scientific Research and SABIC.
5. University-funded projects on which applicants are currently working may be included in their application for SABIC research grants.

3. FAST TRACK RESEARCH GRANTS

With the limited amount of funding provided by SABIC (SR. 1.5 million), only 14 or 15 proposals could be supported out of the large number of proposals that are usually received for funding under the SABIC grant. A new track for research funding, called "Fast Track Fund" was therefore established in the year 2000. The main objective is to encourage more faculty members, in particular junior faculty members, to submit proposals of limited budget and duration. In addition, Fast Track Fund is meant to promote the idea of involving graduate students and research assistance in research

projects. It is used to fund proposals of short duration and limited budget, similar to those submitted under the SABIC Grant arrangement. Proposals submitted under the Fast Track Fund will be selected using ranking criteria similar to those developed for SABIC Grants. The University funded 25 Fast Track projects in the year 2000-2001 and 19 projects in the year 2001-2002. The maximum budget for each of these projects is SR. 75,000 and the maximum duration of the project is 12 months to 18 months. Some of the projects funded under the Fast Track Grants have already been successfully completed and evaluated by the Research Committee.

In order to establish strong research base and to develop local technical expertise, “Developmental Research” proposals are highly encouraged as part of the Fast Track/SABIC research grants. Those proposals will typically involve upgrading important instruments or introducing new technical methods for operating or maintaining existing equipment. As part of the “Fast Track” research grants,