

GUIDELINES FOR BEST RESEARCH PROJECT AWARD

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1. Summary

The Best Research Project Award shall be a monetary sum awarded every year to the best three completed research projects which apply for the award in this year, as judged by the Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR)/University Research Committee (URC).

2. Purpose

The award is intended to serve as an incentive for researchers to focus on production of quality research outcomes, innovative ideas, and establishing future research directions, as well as collaboration and timely completion in execution of research projects.

3. Eligibility

All research projects funded by the DSR shall be eligible for the award, subject to meeting the following eligibility criteria:

1. The final report must have been approved with an overall rating of at least "Very Good.
2. The application for the award must have been submitted within two years of the date of completion of the project. If the project is not given the award, the researcher may apply more than once for the award within this period. If the PI is no longer associated with KFUPM any of the co-investigators could apply on behalf of the PI. If a project wins the award, the share of the PI or Co-I s who are no longer with KFUPM shall be forwarded to him/them.
3. The project must have resulted in at least one journal publication per each 12 months of project duration.
4. The project should be completed within the approved time and budget.
5. Submission of the final report within one month of the date of approved. Completion date of the project should be without any extension of the project duration.
6. The final report should meet the requirements mentioned in the guidelines prepared by the Deanship and the objectives should be fully or mostly achieved.
7. Any publication or patent resulting from project must acknowledge KFUPM funding and the project number.
8. In order to qualify to apply for the award, a minimum number of 70 points should be scored by the applicants.
9. The PI of the project will be eligible to apply for the award again after the lapse of three years from the last time he received the award.



4. Criteria for Numerical Ratings

The point system is described in the following section.

Criteria: The criteria for the award shall be based on five main factors quality of the final report, quality of the project's outcomes, contribution in establishing future research directions, contribution in fostering research collaboration, and application of the project's output. Specific issues considered under each factor are presented below, along with points allocated for each factor and issue.

4.1 Quality of Final Report: (20 points)

The quality of final report shall be evaluated on the basis of the following two factors, each carrying equal weight.

1. The final report must conform to normal academic standards, and contain all requirements outlined in the guidelines of DSR as well as Quality and style of presentation, formatting, avoidance of spelling and grammar mistakes, etc.
2. The project's objectives must have been fully or mostly achieved. A project that mostly achieves its objectives shall receive a maximum of 15 points in this category.

Outcome: Three major outcomes of the research project shall be assessed journal publications, publications in conference proceedings, and patents. All outcomes should be direct outcomes from the project which must be clearly acknowledged in each of them.

1. Journal Publications/Patents: The minimum number of journal publications to qualify for the award shall be one publication per 12 months of project duration. For projects of longer duration, the minimum number of publications or patents shall be pro-rated accordingly. One patent per 12 months of project duration shall enable the project to earn 60 points in this category. The credit for a lower or higher number of patents shall be pro-rated accordingly. Only a granted patent resulting as an outcome of the research project through known patent offices (USA & Europe) shall be considered. 40 points are assigned to each journal publication. Criteria used in the Excellence in Research Award shall be applied in assigning weight for the journal publications. Journals with the highest rating shall receive a weight of 1, while those with lower rating shall receive proportionally lower weight factors
2. Papers in Refereed Conference Proceedings: A conference paper (full length papers) that appears in conference proceedings shall be awarded 5 points. Maximum number of points that can be earned from conference papers is 20 points.



4.2 Contributions in Research Direction: (10 points)

Points shall be awarded for research projects that result in the following:

1. Establishing/enhancing future research directions, and (ii) thesis/dissertation guidance, Evidence of item.
2. Could be submitted by the project team or established by the URC based on the comments from the reviewers.

4.3 Collaboration: (10 points)

The following aspects are considered as evidence of collaborative work in the research project. Point allocation for each aspect is also indicated:

1. Project team consists of more than one member (2 points).
2. Project team is multi-disciplinary (4 points).
3. Project involves graduate students, local industry/international collaboration (4 points)

4.4 Applicability/Utilization: (10 points)

This criterion shall be based on whether the research performed in the project is of impact to industry, society or other researchers in the area. This shall be derived from the input of the researchers and the remarks of the reviewers

5. Award determination:

1. The award of the Best Research Project shall be based upon recommendations of the URC, which may form an ad-hoc committee to evaluate and select the candidate(s) for the award.
2. The maximum number of awards should be limited to 3 awards and not more than one award per department.
3. The award consists of SR. 5,000 to the research team plus a Plaque and Certificates to the research team.
4. The monetary sum will be distributed according to the contribution made by the individual members of the team in the project as per the actual project schedule.
5. One award for Sabic/Fast Track projects and two awards for Internally Funded Projects having duration of at least 12 months.