

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUND (AcRF) TIER 2

WHITEPAPER APPLICATION GRANT CALL

(Call Ref: AcRF T2, 2/2027)

The MOE Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 2 funds research projects on a competitive basis across Singapore-based universities. The research funded under AcRF Tier 2 has to be conducted in Singapore, unless expressly allowed by MOE.

The AcRF supports research in Singapore-based universities:

- that has academic significance & good potential for creating new knowledge that will benefit the larger academic community.
- where research outcomes advance high-quality research of international excellence that challenges current understanding or provides pathways to new frontiers.
- where the research has a foundation for discoveries that have or will have direct impact on the economy and society.

Additionally, AcRF contributes towards MOE's mission of training postgraduate research manpower to support the national R&D activities by funding research scholarships.

FUNDING QUANTUM

Discipline Cluster	Quantum (min-max)*	Duration
EP1, EP2 ¹ , EP5	S\$500,000 – S\$1.5M	3 years
EP3	S\$500,000 – S\$1.8M	3 years, 4 years or 5 years
EP4	S\$100,000 – S\$1.5M	3 years

* including 30% indirect research cost and excluding research scholarships.

(Refer to Annex A for details of the respective Discipline Cluster)

ELIGIBILITY

Principal Investigator (PI), Co-investigators (co-PIs)	Full-time faculty ² based locally in our Autonomous Universities (AU) ³ , including autonomous institutions within the AUs, e.g. Duke-NUS Medical School.
Collaborators	Based locally and/or overseas

¹ Only Pure Mathematics and Statistics projects under the Informatics & Mathematics discipline cluster with TPV of \$250,000 and above are also eligible for funding under AcRF Tier 2.

² Full-time faculty members are those who hold appointment and perform duties at the AU for a minimum of 9 months a year. Faculty on visiting appointments are not eligible to be PIs or co-PIs. Research staff, such as Senior Research Fellows and Research Associates, are not considered to be faculty.

³ The AUs are: Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

New Applications

With effect from the 1/2020 (Whitepaper Application) Grant Call, a simplified application process will be adopted.

- Applicants will submit a concise Whitepaper Application form for new proposals.
- For applications to EP4 discipline cluster, please use the form and templates in the zipped folder "*MOE-Tier2-RGF(Whitepaper-Application)_EP4*".
- All applications will be submitted to the Vice Dean (Research) Office (VDRO), with a copy to the respective Head of Department (HOD). HOD does not need to endorse at this stage, **except for Whitepapers submitted to EP4 discipline cluster where HOD's evaluation comments are still required before submission to the VDRO.**

Invited by MOE for Resubmission

- PIs of Re-submission Applications will complete a cover sheet to summarise the revisions made based on MOE Panel's comments.
- ODPRT Officers will contact the respective PIs to follow up on the required paperwork.

Endorsement & Submission to ODPRT

1. Applicants can sign-off on the Whitepaper Application or Re-submission Cover Sheet using electronic or digital signature.
2. HOD (EP4 only) and/or VDR's endorsements on the Whitepaper Application, Re-submission Cover Sheet, and/or, Summary List of Applications can be via email or in the form of an electronic or digital signature.
3. VDR will endorse once on the Summary List of Applications.

GRANT CALL TIMELINE

ODPRT issues call	5 Aug 2026
Deadline for PI to submit Whitepaper / Resubmission Applications to Fac VDRO	9 Sep 2026
ODPRT announces outcome of preliminary evaluation	Mid Dec 2026*
Deadline for PI to submit Full Proposal to VDRO and RGP	Mid Feb 2027*
MOE closes call	End Feb 2027*
MOE announces outcome	Aug 2027*

*Tentative deadline

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further enquiries, please contact the following officers:

Discipline Cluster	Name	Email	DID
EP1, EP5	Ms Wendy Sim	wendysim@nus.edu.sg	6516 1264
EP2, EP3	Ms Chan Ching Ting	dprcct@nus.edu.sg	6601 2780
EP4	Ms Brenda Lim	dprlimbn@nus.edu.sg	6516 5286

Annex A

MOE ACRF TIER 2 DISCIPLINE CLUSTERS

The PI should select a discipline cluster that best categorises his/her research proposal so that it may be evaluated by a suitable Expert Panel.

Discipline Cluster	Sub-areas
Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (EP1)	Physical chemistry; Inorganic chemistry; Organic chemistry; Analytical chemistry; Macromolecular chemistry; Theoretical & computational chemistry; Other chemical sciences; Geochemistry; Chemical engineering.
Informatics and Mathematics (EP2)	Mathematics; Statistics; Other mathematical sciences; Information systems; Artificial intelligence & signal & image processing; Computer Engineering (Software); Computer software; Computation theory & mathematics; Data format; Other information, computing & communication sciences.
Life Sciences and Biomedical Engineering (EP3)	Biochemistry and cell biology; Genetics; Microbiology; Botany; Zoology; Physiology; Ecology & evolution; Biotechnology; Other biological sciences; Medicine (General, Immunology, Medical biochemistry & clinical chemistry); Medical microbiology; Pharmacology & pharmaceutical sciences; Medical physiology; Dentistry; Optometry; Clinical sciences; Nursing; Public health & health services; Complementary/alternative medicine; Human movement & sports science; Neurosciences; Other medical & health sciences.
Accountancy, Business, Humanities and Social Sciences (EP4)⁴	Political science; Policy & administration; Other policy & political science; Sociology; Social work; Anthropology; Human geography; Demography; History & philosophy of science & medicine; Other studies in human society; Law; Professional development of law practitioners; Justice & legal studies; Law enforcement; Other law, justice & law enforcement; Journalism communication and media; Economic theory; Applied economics; Economic history & history of economic thought; Econometrics; Other economics; Accounting, auditing & accountability; Business & management; Banking, finance & investment; Transportation; Tourism; Services; Other commerce, management, tourism & services; Librarianship; Curatorial studies; Other journalism, librarianship & curatorial studies; Language studies; Literature studies; Cultural studies; Other language & culture; Historical studies; Archaeology & Prehistory; Other history & archaeology; Philosophy; Religion & Religious traditions; Other Philosophy & religion; Performing arts; Visual arts & crafts; Cinema, electronic arts & multimedia; Design studies; Other arts; Education studies; Curriculum studies; Professional development of teachers; Other education; Psychology; Linguistics; Cognitive science; Other behavioural & cognitive sciences; Architecture and urban environment; Building; Other architecture, urban environment and building.
Physics and Engineering (EP5)	Astronomical sciences; Theoretical & condensed matter physics; Atomic & molecular physics; Nuclear & particle physics; Plasma physics; Optical physics; Classical physics; Other physical sciences; Geology; Geophysics; Oceanography; Hydrology; Atmospheric sciences; Other earth sciences; Aerospace engineering; Manufacturing engineering; Automotive engineering; Mechanical & industrial engineering; Resources engineering; Civil engineering; Electrical & electronic engineering; Geomatic engineering; Environmental engineering; Maritime engineering; Metallurgy; Materials engineering; Computer Engineering (Hardware); Computer hardware; Communications technologies; Interdisciplinary engineering; Other engineering & technology.

⁴ Inter-disciplinary proposals with strong biology components should in general be submitted to EP3, even if there are some elements of social science in the proposal.

NON-FUNDABLE DIRECT COSTS

Type of Expenses	Description
Salaries of Lead PI / Investigators / Visiting Professors & researchers/ Collaborators/ general administrative support staff	Not allowable.
Teaching buy outs	Not allowable for the hiring of substitutes to perform the Investigators' teaching duties.
Undergraduate stipend and tuition support	Not allowable.
Costs related to general administration and management.	Not allowable. This includes common office equipment, such as furniture and fittings, office software, photocopiers, scanners and office supplies.
Costs of office or laboratory space	Not allowable. This includes renovation/outfitting costs, rent, depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditures such as water, electricity, general waste disposal and building/facilities maintenance charges.
Personal productivity tools & communication expenses	Not allowable, unless the use of mobile phones and other form of smart devices were indicated in the methodology for the Research.
Audit fees (Internal and external audit) and Legal fees	Not allowable.
Entertainment	Not allowable.
Refreshment	Not allowable, unless this is related to a hosted conference or workshop for the Research.
Fines and Penalties	Not allowable.
Patent Application	Not allowable. This includes patent application filing, maintenance and other related cost.
Professional Membership Fees	Not allowable.
Staff retreat and team-building activities.	Not allowable.