



VICE CHANCELLORS' SEED FUNDING INITIATIVE DOW UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

1. Overview

The success of the University's strategic plan is predicated upon engagement across the University. One of the focused efforts directed toward this engagement is the annual opportunity for faculty and master and doctoral students to submit ideas for transformative research projects that are directed towards supporting one or more of the seven goals and associated strategies within the DUHS Strategic Plan entitled "**BRIDGE TO EXCELLENCE**"

2. What is Vice Chancellors' Seed Funding Initiative?

Vice Chancellors' Seed Funding Initiative (VCSFI) is a well-defined action that will play an instrumental role in transforming Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) and enhancing its research capacity and improving its ranking both regionally and globally. Proposed projects can include a range of activities related to cutting-edge research that result in subsequent competitive extramural funding and generation of new knowledge in the form of manuscripts (published in high impact journals), podium and poster presentations in national and international discipline-specific meetings.

3. Funding

Annually, the Vice Chancellor's Office will invest funds to support the VCSFI. **Faculty can request up to PKR 500,000 per year for a period of three years. Master and Doctoral students can request a one-time award up to PKR 250,000**

4. Eligibility

All faculty and master and doctoral students at DUHS are eligible to apply for funding. Faculty may serve as a Principal Investigator on only one project; however, they may serve as collaborators on multiple projects. Students cannot serve as Principal Investigator; they will serve as collaborators with their respective supervisors.

Note: Supervisors who serve as Principal Investigators of their student proposal will be able to submit their own application as Principal Investigators.

5. Application Submission

Completed applications with all supporting materials are due by **Saturday, July 13, 2024**

Format Requirements

- Concept Overview with hypothesis (500 words max.)
- Specific Aims
- Methodology (250 words max.)
- Results (250 words max.)
- Outcome (250 words max.)
- Required Resources (250 words max.)
- Sustainability and future funding potential (250 words max.)
- Budget: Must include line item for each activity (e.g., personnel; supplies; equipment; animal purchase, etc.)
- CV, Biosketch, or Resume of PI/Student

6. Review Criteria & Selection

Proposal will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria:

- **Significance/Transformational** – Proposals must clearly articulate the anticipated results/outputs/outcome of the proposed actions in measurable terms, and it must:
 - Be in the following Signature programs:
 - Cancer
 - Infectious Diseases, Immunity & Inflammation
 - Precision Medicine, Genomics, and Informatics
 - Cardiovascular and Metabolic (such as Diabetes, Obesity, etc.) Diseases
 - Neurosciences
 - Genomics and Genetics
 - Regenerative Medicine, Stem Cells and Transplants
 - Biotechnology
 - Applied Public Health
 - Data Sciences
 - Address a serious health problem in our community
 - Have potential impact on the health of our community by application of its findings in the near term or future
 - Have potential for future competitive extramural funding from national and international funding agencies
 - Have potential for generation of new knowledge and successful publication(s) in high impact national and international journals
- **Impact of Research Plan** – Proposals should clearly articulate the anticipated results/outputs/outcome of the proposed actions in measurable terms. It must include:
 - Originality of research hypotheses and its potential scientific merit
 - Clarity and feasibility of research objectives

- **Interdisciplinary** – Applicants are **required** to reach across multiple academic units when developing a proposal. In addition, external partnerships with national and international investigators and involvement of postgraduate students will be favorably reviewed.
- **Clinical Research** – Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that address a burgeoning clinical conditions that are a chronic disease burden in our community.
- **Plan for Alignment with DUHS Strategic Plan** – Proposals should support one or more goal/strategy within the University’s strategic plan. Proposals that support multiple goals/strategies are encouraged.

A distinct advantage will be given to proposals that can demonstrate long-term sustainability and future successful funding from extramural sources.

7. Post Award Requirements

All VCSFI awardees are required to:

- Ensure that resources are utilized according to what is outlined in the grant application.
- Submit year-end reports indicating progress. For multi-year awards, continuation of funding will be dependent on submission of a satisfactory progress report.
- Submit outcome metrics on an annual basis for a minimum of three years post-implementation.

8. Important Dates

| Timeline | Dates |
|--|----------------------------|
| Competition Opens: | Monday, June 03, 2024 |
| Completed Application with Supporting Documents Due: | Saturday, July 13, 2024 |
| Funded Projects Announcement: | Saturday, August 10, 2024 |
| Funding Start Date: | Monday, September 02, 2024 |

9. Contact

If you have any question, please e-mail VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk

10. Submission of Proposals:

Please e-mail completed proposals to: VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk