Guidelines for the Award of

Research Grants

National Institute of Education

2022

1. **Objective of the Award of Research Grant**

   The National Institute of Education will pre-evaluate grant applications for research projects and decide on an appropriate allocation of funds.
   The main objectives of making these research grants available are to:

   1.1 encourage prospective researchers to identify issues in education and conduct research in the field of general education with a view to broadening the scope of knowledge and facilitating decision making.

   1.2 motivate researchers to conduct studies that contribute to policy making in relation to education in Sri Lanka.

   1.3 motivate NIE academic staff to undertake and conduct educational research contributing to their professional development.

2. **General Information**

   2.1 When selecting proposals for grants, priority will be given to those addressing the current issues in education that seek furtherance of existing knowledge which helps policy makers make informed decisions (Annex 1).

   2.2 The research topic should pertain to the Sri Lankan context (Annex 1).

   2.3 The period of completion of the study

   2.3.1 The grants will be given under the following categories from the date of signing the agreement

   Type 01   -   Maximum up to Rs.200000

   Type 02   -   Maximum up to Rs.500000

   Type 03   -   Maximum up to Rs.1000000

   2.3.2 Grants are approved from 6 months to two years

   2.3.4 Progress reports must be submitted at the end of the following steps of the study

   Step 1 - Development of Instrument

   Step 2 - Collection of data

   Step 3 - Writing Draft report

   2.4 Dissemination of findings

   2.4.1 Research findings should be disseminated by all researchers at a seminar organized by the Department of Research & Development, NIE.

   2.4.2 Researchers have a requirement to submit an article on their research findings to Research Journals published by the NIE.

   2.4.3 Dissemination of the research findings in the form of National/International Conferences, Journals or online publications will not be permitted unless the NIE authorizes such publications.

   2.4.4 The research and any publications are the properties of NIE.

2.4.5 Any publication of the particular study should carry the name of NIE will, figure in all publication as the address where the work was primarily carried out.

- Grant from NIE should be acknowledged in all publications
- Reports of the publication issuing from the work should be filed with NIE
- The final report will be evaluated by the Research Committee

2.5 Research grants will not be provided for editing or publishing books and monographs etc.

2.6 If the Research Advisory Committee is of the view that the cost of the particular project is unwieldy, even though the project proposal deserves consideration, the Committee may request the prospective grantee to revise the cost component and resubmit the estimate.

2.7 The plan of the research should be submitted in the form of a *Gantt chart* with a stepwise breakdown of activities and the estimated time for each in months indicated on the ordinate axis.

2.8 Research grant will be given under the supervision of the Department of Research and Development. For each research one officer will be appointed as a coordinator.

3. **Eligibility for the Applicants**

3.1 The applicant should have a postgraduate degree and experience in the field of education / related field and should be,

    I.   A member of the academic staff of NIE

    Or

    II.   A member of the academic staff of a University or Higher Education Institute and National college of Education.

    Or

    III.   Member of SLAAD - Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Education, SLIDA - Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and any other organization related to the field of education accept by the NIE.

4. **Submission of Proposals**

4.1 All applications for grants should be submitted in triplicate on the prescribed form.

4.2 Applications should be type written and should be submitted along with a soft copy (dilhaniebirder@yahoo.com).

4.3 The proposal should be submitted in Sinhala/Tamil/English language, typeset on one side of A4 sheets with 1.5 line spacing.

4.4 Depending on the category of the grant proposal should be more than five pages and less than ten pages in length.

4.5 Page set up -

Top	-	1"
Bottom	-	1"
Right	-	1"
Left	-	1.5"

4.6 Font type -

Sinhala	-	FM Abhaya
Tamil	-	Kalaham
English	-	Times New Roman

4.7 Font size -

Main topic 14 bold
Sub topics 12 bold
Text 12

4.8 Detailed organization of the Research Proposal should be as follows:

- Research Topic

- Introduction

- Literature review

    o This should include an overview of current status of research at national and international level

- Research methodology

- Budget - Give details of the budget for each stage

- Time frame - Give a summary of the time frame according to grant category.

- References - References should be arranged in alphabetical order and must conform to the style, recommended by the Manual of American Psychological Association (APA).

4.9 When an application for a research grant is submitted jointly by more than one individual, one of them should be named as the principal researcher and he/she should be responsible for carrying out the project.

4.10 In the case of employees of institutions, applications must be submitted through the head of the relevant institution and should be supplemented with a background of the applicant or organization.

4.11 All applications should be addressed to the Director General, P.O. Box 21, NIE, Maharagama in registered cover with the caption 'Research Grants - 2022' written on its left hand side upper corner.

5. **Payment of Grants**

   5.1   Grant are payable in four installments as follows:

       I.   **15%** of the grant will be paid as an advance to commence the research at the point of approval of the proposal.

       II.   **25%** preparation of instruments and data collection.

       III.   **30%** preparation of findings and draft report.

       IV.   **30%** final Report

   5.2   10% of the installment will be deducted in case a delay in any of the steps mention in above I – IV. However a justification for the delay can be made to the research Advisory committee to be considered.

   5.3   All applications for advances except the first have to be supported by payment details accompanied by a P1 voucher recommended by the Head of the Research, NIE/Institution.

   5.4   All financial transactions of the grantee in respect of the project shall be in accordance with the financial regulations of the NIE.

   5.5   Funding specifications

       5.4.1   Funding will be considered for
   - Minor equipment (project specific)
   - Document required for the research
   - Travelling
   - Allowances for research assistants (when necessary)
   - Any other relevant cost.

       5.4.2   Funds will not be available for the purchase of computers, printers, and other major equipment.

6. **Evaluation of the Proposal and Progress**

   The proposals presented are evaluated by a Research Advisory Committee on the basis of the following criteria.

   6.1   Clarity of the Proposal: The proposal is clear and well drafted. All aspects of the proposal conform to academic standards.

   6.2   Scientific significance of the proposal objectives: quality and feasibility of the proposed plans, importance of goals and objectives, research focus and themes, feasibility of the proposed approach and research methods.

   6.3   Research methodology.

   6.4   Applicability and relevance to the Sri Lankan system of Education.

   6.5   Budget estimation: Reasonable budget for the proposed goals and activities and proper budget breakdown.

6.6 The Research Advisory Committee has the discretion to accept, reject, or refer a proposal to an expert or a committee of experts to evaluate the project proposal before acceptance.

6.7 Evaluation of Progress
Grantees should submit in duplicate, a detailed progress report once each quarter on the prescribed format. Failure to submit such reports will lead to suspension/ cancellation of the grant.

7. Suspension or Cancellation of Grants

7.1 The grant is liable to cancellation for any breach of the conditions of the agreement.

7.2 In the event of a cancellation the grant already paid will have to be refunded.

7.3 Refund of any grant due to the NIE shall be made in one installment unless otherwise permitted by the Research Advisory Committee.

7.4 If the Research Advisory Committee has approved the project proposal and the estimated budget, the grantee should sign an agreement between the NIE and the applicant before commencing the research project.

8. Submission of the Final Report

8.1 The final report should be typed in 1.5 spaces on A4 size paper and properly bound. It should be in publishable form and three copies produced in the same manner should be submitted. All illustrations, maps, diagrams and graphs should be clearly drawn to enable reproduction (Report should follow the proposal guidelines detailed on page 2 and 3).

8.2 The length of the report should conform to the following:
Type 01 - not less than 20,000 words
Type 02 - not less than 30,000 words
Type 03 - not less than 40,000 words

Providing Research Grants-2022

Proposed areas of research

1. Comparative study of the following aspects in general education and education reforms.

    i. 21st Century Skills.

    ii. 21st Century School and the Principal.

    iii. 21st Century Teaching and Learning Process.

    iv. 21st Century Assessment.

    v. Module Based Learning.

    vi. Alternate Education.

    vii. Authentic Learning and Blended Learning.

    viii. Learning centered classroom.

    ix. Education 4.0 and 4th Industrial Revolution Related Education.

2. Restructuring of the School system.

3. Modern Technological of Assessment and Evaluation.

4. Curriculum Development Process.

5. Education for Sustainable Development.

6. Professional Development in Education.

7. Regional Resource disparities in Resource for Education.

8. Educational Reforms and their Implementation.