



ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT (ARG)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) SECOND CYCLE

March 2024

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Acronym List

ARG	Academic Research Grant
GAG	Grant Application Guide
IP	Intellectual Property
KI	Key Investigator
LPI	Lead Principal Investigator
PI	Principal Investigator
PR	Peer Reviewer
QNRF	Qatar National Research Fund
QRDI	Qatar Research, Development and Innovation
R&D	Research and Development
RFA	Request for Application
RO	Research Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

ARG Snapshot

SCOPE	
Competition Opens	12 March 2024
Submission Deadline	Proposal submission by LPI: 7 May 2024 (12pm, Doha time). Final submission and RO vetting: 21 May 2024 (12pm, Doha time). The complete application is due by this deadline.
Announcement of Awards	October/November 2024
Applicant Eligibility	- The LPI must be affiliated with an approved submitting institution inside Qatar. - The LPI must hold an approved terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the “Document Library” at link.
Awards Parameters	Each award is up to QAR 900,000 (246,561 USD) per year for a duration of up to three years . This amount includes personnel, capital equipment, consumables, materials, services, travel, miscellaneous, and applicable indirect costs.
Priority Areas	Proposals should be broadly aligned with any of the national RDI priority areas available at link .
Co-Funding/Cost-Sharing	QRDI allows co-funding/cost-sharing contributions, in cash or in-kind.
IP Policy	QRDI follows the QRDI Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the QRDI IP policy at the link .
How to Apply	Register and submit the full application through the online submission system: https://oss.ggrants.org/ . The Grant Application Guide (GAG) is available for download at the link, see the “Document Library” for the ARG.
Related Documents	The applications must comply with all the policies and guidelines available at QRDI portal at link and in the “Document Library” at link .
QNRF Contact	All enquiries and requests should be submitted via QRDI support system, at: https://support.qrdi.org.qa/

Section 1. Overview and Program Objectives

ARG is designed to support investigator-led R&D aimed at generating new knowledge and furthering scientific understanding in topics broadly aligned with any of the national RDI priority areas available at [\(link\)](#). Furthermore, it aims to enhance Qatar's reputation and contributions to the global stock of knowledge and contribute to the enhancement of capabilities of the research talent pool.

Section 2. Eligibility

2.1. Eligibility of Lead Principal Investigators (LPIs)

2.1.1 The LPI must be a full-time affiliate of an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.

2.1.2 An eligible LPI must hold a terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the "Document Library" at [link](#).

2.1.3 The LPI can submit one application only in this call. In addition, the count of an individual's active participation in ARG under previous or current cycles, as an LPI or PI, must not exceed three roles.

2.2. Eligibility of Submitting Institution

All academic, public, private and other (e.g., non-profit and NGOs) entities in Qatar with QRDI-approved Research Offices are eligible (see [link](#)).

2.3. Eligibility of Collaborative Institutions

2.3.1 Collaborative institutions must include at least one full-time affiliated PI.

2.3.2 Institutions inside or outside the state of Qatar are eligible to collaborate with the submitting institutions.

For the eligibility of other team members, please refer to the "Personnel Requirements" document available in the "Document Library" at [link](#).

Section 3. Timeline

The following table shows important dates for the ARG 2nd cycle.

Timeline for ARG 2 nd Cycle	
Description	Dates
Online registration of ROs and key investigators	Always Open
Open proposal submission as well as RO vetting* process.	12pm (Doha Time), Tuesday, 12 March 2024
Deadline for proposal submission by LPI	12pm (Doha Time), Tuesday, 7 May 2024
Deadline for RO vetting	12pm (Doha Time), Tuesday, 21 May 2024
Proposals' screening notification	June 2024
Awards announcement	October/November 2024

*RO vetting starts once the proposal is submitted.

Section 4. Application

4.1. Application Submission

The LPI should submit the proposal via the online submission system¹. The LPI should submit a research plan using the template available at [link](#). Submitted proposals should be endorsed by the RO of the submitting institution to be considered as a valid submission.

4.2. Application Type

4.2.1 New

4.2.1.1 LPIs must select “New” as the type of application.

4.2.1.2 New applications may include proposals that did not pass QNRF screening in previous cycles.

4.2.2 Resubmission

4.2.2.1 Proposals that passed screening but were not awarded are allowed to be resubmitted in the subsequent cycle as “Resubmission”. The LPI must select “Resubmission” in this case.

4.2.2.2 Previously resubmitted proposals or resubmitted proposals as “New” will be screened out.

Section 5. Budget

5.1. Duration and Grant

The ARG award is up to **QAR 900,000 (246,561 USD)** per year for **up to three years**.

5.2. Co-Funding and Cost-Sharing

Co-funding and cost-sharing are allowed (see co-funding and cost-sharing policy [link](#)).

5.3. Grant and Effort Allocation

At least **65%** of effort and **80%** of total annual budget should be spent in Qatar.

Please refer to the “Budget Components” document available in the “Document Library” at [link](#).

Section 6. Proposal Vetting and Screening

All proposals are to be vetted by the research office of the submitting institution to ensure compliance with the policies of the institution’ and QRDI’s. Proposals will also be screened by QRDI to ensure compliance with the program’s rules and regulations. The screening criteria are available in the “Document Library” at [link](#).

Section 7. Proposal Evaluation

Proposals are peer-reviewed by a minimum of four international experts in the field of the proposal. The reviewers are solicited by QRDI to evaluate each proposal against the criteria listed below. The reviewers will evaluate the proposals and provide narrative feedback to applicants. This feedback would benefit successful applicants in conducting their projects and help unsuccessful ones improve their resubmissions. Any proposal that scored “Poor” in any individual criterion, will not be considered for funding.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

7.1. Scientific Excellence (Excellent; Good; Average; Unsatisfactory; Poor) (40%)

This criterion assesses the potential of the proposal to create new knowledge and further scientific understanding

¹ For more information about the submission, please refer to the “Online Submission Procedures” and the “Grant Application Guide (GAG)” available in the “Document Library” at the [link](#).

- The proposal describes novel and original ideas
- The potential of the proposal to generate or further knowledge, in terms of creating a breakthrough or a step change.
- The project addresses an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field.
- The scientific premise of the proposal is sound and significant.
- The methodology is robust and feasible.

7.2. Implementation of the Research Work (Excellent; Good; Average; Unsatisfactory; Poor) (30%)

This criterion assesses the feasibility of carrying out the proposed research work

- The proposal describes clear, measurable, and achievable objectives within the proposed resources.
- The work plan describes clear, measurable and well co-ordinated tasks and milestones.
- The resources, i.e., personnel, equipment, time, etc., are adequate and justified.
- The research team members are well-qualified and have relevant and complementary expertise. the LPI's track record in research management and leadership is satisfactory.
- The collaboration is well justified. The collaborative institutions are of good standing and are adequately resourced.

7.3. Budget (Excellent; Good; Average; Unsatisfactory; Poor) (20%)

- The budget is appropriate and justified.
- The co-funding/cost-sharing commitments, if any, are realistic and reasonable.

7.4. Knowledge Transfer (Excellent; Good, Average; Unsatisfactory; Poor) (10%)

- The potential to disseminate scientific outcomes and transfer knowledge and technology is high.
- The proposal will enhance the scientific capacity in the research area.

7.5. Research Compliance (Comments only)

- The proposal is compliant with the relevant regulations to ensure protection of human subjects.
- The proposal is compliant with the relevant regulations to ensure protection of children.
- The proposal is compliant with the relevant regulations to ensure vertebrate animals.
- The proposal is compliant with the relevant regulations to ensure protection from biohazards.

At the end of the review process, proposals are categorised in terms of competitiveness and grouped as shown in the table below. Funding decisions will be made based on the available budget.

Final Review Ranking

Group	Description
A	The proposal was evaluated to be highly competitive.
B	The proposal was evaluated to be moderately competitive.
C	The proposal was evaluated to be uncompetitive.