

The Research Groups Support Track at King Faisal University

Introduction:

The vision of the Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR) – which derives from the vision of King Faisal University (KFU) – is to develop a culture of conducting a rigorous scientific research aimed at building a knowledge-based economy and at putting the needs of society within its priorities. The DSR works on developing a research system that stimulates innovation and creativity. The major objective is research production that may enhance the knowledge-based economy and the implementation of modern research techniques in order to serve the objectives of community development and active participation in the human effort to meet the current challenges and future needs for the welfare of local and global communities. This can be achieved by following:

- Supporting scientific research at KFU financially and logistically and seeking to diversify sources of funding.
- Participating in the development of the scientific research infrastructure at KFU in accordance with the innovative technologies and global research standards and contributing to the transfer and implementation of modern research techniques.
- Developing the regulations and legislations related to scientific research to uplift the level of scientific research and stimulate a culture of creativity, innovation and competition.
- Encouraging creative research proposals that may lead to the granting of patents, international scientific registrations publishing research articles in prestigious research journals.
- Recruiting outstanding researchers and train them in the procedures and practices of scientific research
- Documenting the research outputs of KFU faculty staff in order to raise the ranking of both the KFU and its researchers in accordance with the relevant universal research standards of ranking.
- Consolidating the cooperation with local, regional and global research institutions and research centers.
- Taking part in facing the challenges that accompany the development in the society through proposing and supporting research priorities within the framework of the national development plans.

- Pairing and harmonizing the practices and procedures of the DSR with the requirements of academic accreditation.

The Vision:

Raising the quality of the scientific research outputs at KFU by promoting collaborative research work.

The Message:

Preparing the procedures and mechanisms for conducting a collaborative research work among the departments and faculties at KFU or with local and international universities in order to produce high quality scientific research outputs that meets the ambitions of researchers, university and society.

The Objective of Research Groups:

Research groups that share a common specialization are among the most important research systems that can promote scientific research in research institutions. The main objectives of these research groups are shown below:

- Reinforcing collective research work through creating an interactive research environment that enhances the utilization and integration of the diverse experiences of the members in the research groups. This can be implemented in research groups within the university or in collaboration with other universities, across the globe. Ultimately, it will enhance the quantity and quality of the research articles published in the distinguished international journals under KFU.
- Contributing to the process of preparing qualified staff from the postgraduate students enrolled in the university.
- Contributing to the construction of specialized scientific units that are managed by qualified staff from KFU.
- Encouraging the scientific partnership between different sectors - governmental and private institutions - in order to find solutions of the social problems.

The Regulations Related to Research Groups

First: Regulations and conditions for applying to research groups

- The primary researcher who is from the staff employed by KFU should lead the primary research. The primary researcher should have at least 5 research articles published in the Web of Science, Thomson (Reuters) in the last five years. Priority for leading the group will be decided based on the number of published research as well as the quality of the published work.
- The primary researcher will present the names of the participating researchers, "CO-Investigators", who are expected to participate in the research group. The primary researcher has to attach also the curriculum vitae for each researcher.
- The Associate Co-Investigator should have at least 3 research articles published in journals enlisted in Thomson Reuters in the last 5 years. In case the Primary researcher will be unable to lead the group, the associate CO-Investigator may take over to lead the group or he/she can be replaced by another researcher in accordance with the regulations established by the DSR.
- The scientific research outputs of each co-investigator should not be less than 2 research articles that have been published in the Thomson Reuters database within the last 5 years.
- The members of the research group have to be homogeneous in a way that serves the research project and its outputs in terms of the diversity of the researchers' specialties.
- The name of the research group should be descriptive of its field of activity and specialization. There should also be a scientific summary of the expected research activities of the group mentioned in the contract where the roles of all group members in these activities should be clarified.
- The diversity in the specializations of the research group members and the connection between their specializations should be taken into consideration. The research group should consist of at least three (03) researchers in addition to the primary researcher. The group may include external researchers (from inside or outside the Kingdom); however, the number of external researchers should not exceed one third of the members of the group.

- The researcher can participate in two research groups at most, but he/she should not be the primary researcher in more than one group.
- The primary researcher has to submit at least 5 original research articles that have been published in international journals with Impact factor not less than 1 according to the Thomson Reuters database of scientific, engineering and health disciplines. For social and human specialization, the primary researcher can submit 3 research articles published in journals listed in the Thomson Reuters database.
- The contract lasts for two years from the date of signing the contract.
- The primary researcher has to provide the DSR with regular progress reports (every 6 months), explaining the progress of the research group.
- Upon expiry of the contract period, the financial dues of the research group will be settled according to the number of scientific papers submitted and whether these papers meet the conditions set by the Deanship.

Second: The Terms and Conditions for Accepting Research Papers Submitted by the Research Groups

- Research articles submitted to the deanship must be published or accepted for publication in scientific journals with at least one "impact factor" according to the Thomson Reuters database.
- Research articles submitted by any research group should not contain more than 2 research articles published in journals classified in the third quarter (Q3) or the fourth quarter (Q4). The rest of the research articles have to be published in journals classified in the first quarter (Q1) (at least one research article) or in the second quarter (Q2), and according to specialization.
- None of the research articles submitted by the research group should be supported by the DSR under any other name other than the *Research Group Supporting Track* at KFU.
- Each research article presented by the research group should involve at least two members of the research group, provided that each member in the research group should participate in at least two research articles.
- KFU address should be the first in the list of researchers' addresses. Therefore, the first author in each published research should be affiliated to KFU.

- Each published research should clearly acknowledge the financial support provided by the DSR at King Faisal University with the name and grant number of the research group.
- No published research will be accepted by the Deanship prior to the date of signing the contract with the group.
- The rules and ethics of scientific research must be strictly adhered to. If the research involves experiments on living objects, the approval of the Standing Committee on the Ethics of Scientific Research must be obtained.

Third: Financial regulations for the research groups:

- The maximum budget of the research group, whether with internal or external participation, is limited to 300,000 SR for scientific, health and engineering specialties, and 180,000 SR for specializations in humanities. 50% of the amount allocated for materials, equipment and publishing expenses is paid immediately after signing the contract and in accordance with the regulations followed by the DSR. 25% are paid after the publication of the first research article and then 25% is paid after the publication of all research articles.
- The primary researcher will receive an honorarium of 1200 SR per month throughout the duration of the project.
- The co-researcher will receive an honorarium of 1000 SR per month throughout the duration of the project.
- The assistants of researchers, technicians and consultants shall be offered an honorarium for the duration of their work in the project according to the rules and regulations of the DSR.
- The total amount of the financial honorariums offered to the members of the research team should not exceed 50% of the total budget for research groups of the scientific, health and engineering disciplines
- An “additional” financial honorarium is disbursed for the members of the research group for each additional scientific paper that is published or accepted for publication during the project period, honorariums (allowances) will be disbursed as follows:
 - 7000 SR per author for research published in a journal classified as Q1 in the specialty.

- 5000 SR per author for research published in a journal classified as Q2 in the specialty.
- 3000 SR per author for a research published in a journal classified as Q3 or Q4 in the specialization.
- If the research group could not achieve the required number of research articles before the end of the contract, the DSR will settle the financial dues in the way it sees fit.