



GUIDELINE FOR THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE CATALYST GRANT (CoE-CG)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Centre of Excellence Catalyst Grant (CoE-CG) is introduced to strengthen the niche areas and visibility of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at local and international levels. It aligns with UM's efforts to conduct impactful collaborative research by encouraging partnerships between CoEs and external entities, such as government agencies, industries, and international institutions. These collaborations are expected to produce significant research outcomes and strategic partnerships. This grant serves as a matching fund to incentivize CoE researchers who have successfully secured external research grants. This matching fund can be used for the following purposes:

- 1.1 To propose a new research project; or
- 1.2 To support a portion of the external research grant's costing; or
- 1.3 To supplement the existing external research grant.

2. APPLICATION

The CoE's researchers who have been successfully awarded external research grants from government agencies / private / industry / international research grants and wish to apply for this grant must submit the completed form in **Appendix A** to the Research Cluster Office. Approval of the application is subject to the University's selection committee recommendation.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To foster research collaboration between CoEs and government agencies / private / industries / international partners.
- 3.2. To enhance the impact of CoEs solution-based research outcomes.
- 3.3. To address global challenges that lead to policy changes by providing a broader, evidence-based viewpoint.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 4.1. This grant is open to all **UM researchers (permanent or contract) who registered under any of the 18 CoEs**, established by the Senate University on 26th of January 2023.

- 4.2. **Researcher** who has successfully secured an external research grant (**a minimum of RM 25,000**) in the form of cash, transacted into UM **in the current year**. The grant funding must be credited to UM's bank account and registered with the BPGP (RGMS).
- 4.3. The external research grant is from all categories of grants registered in BPGP except the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme under the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia.
- 4.4. If the external research grant is obtained under the name of the Head of the CoE, any CoE member can apply for this grant with the support of the Head of the CoE. Conversely, if a CoE member is the PI of the external grant, the applicant will be the Head of the CoE.
- 4.5. At the time of application, applicants in permanent positions should have a minimum of 2 years of service remaining before the retirement date. For applicants in contract positions, at least 2 years of service should remain on the contract at the time of application.
- 4.6. The team of the application must consist of **at least three (3) CoE** members and any external collaborators.
- 4.7. The research scope of the proposal must align with the **niche areas of the CoE**.
- 4.8. The CoE researcher who has received a Contract Research Grant from government agencies/private/industry/international institutions is also eligible to apply based on the allocation directly incurred to research only (honorarium/ staff cost/ consultancy/ allowance to the researcher is excluded).
- 4.9. Clinical trial research and consultancy projects are **not eligible** for this grant.
- 4.10. Each researcher is eligible to send **one (1)** application per external research grant(s).

5. DURATION OF PROJECT

- 5.1. The project duration is 24 months or 36 months (maximum).
- 5.2. Requests for project extensions should be submitted to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) with a strong justification and comprehensive details on the research activities conducted.

6. QUANTUM OF FUNDING

- 6.1. The quantum of funding will be determined based on a 1:1 ratio between the external research grant and CoE-CG to a maximum amount of RM100,000 per project.

7. BUDGET DETAIL

The budget must be utilised for the following categories, which are directly related to the project:

VOT	CATEGORIES
V11000	<p>Wages and Allowances</p> <p>Temporary and Contract Personnel who are directly involved in the project.</p>
V21000	<p>Travel and Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of ONE overseas visit*/conference per year is allowed during the project duration. • Only the project leader or a senior co-researcher (not a student, research assistant or postdoc) is allowed for overseas trips. • Travel is limited to economy class, and as far as possible, the shortest direct routes are used. • No virement of funds is allowed from other categories. <p>*Visit is only allowed for meeting with a collaborator or a collaborating institution/agency.</p>
V24000	<p>Rentals</p> <p>Rental expenses for building space, equipment, transportation and any other item directly related to the project</p>
V27000	<p>Research Materials and Supplies</p> <p>Only expenses for research materials and supplies directly related to the project should be included.</p>
V28000	<p>Minor Modifications and Repairs</p> <p>Only expenses for minor modifications and repairs of the equipment or any other item directly related to the project. (no renovation of lab/office spaces allowed)</p>
V29000	<p>Special Services</p> <p>This includes expenses for special services directly related to the project (such as consultancy, payment for enumerators, usage of computer facilities, chemical analysis and data processing). PI must provide a TOR for the consultant hired under this project. The expenses for the international collaborators will not be borne under this Matching Grant.</p>
V35000	<p>Minor Equipment</p> <p>Only the purchase of special equipment and accessories (including accessories to upgrade the capability of existing equipment) directly related to the project should be included.</p> <p>Less than RM10,000 per equipment not more than 30% of grant).</p>

8. SELECTION CRITERIA OF THE PROJECT

- 8.1. The external research grant should directly support and enhance the Centre of Excellence's (CoE) niche area of expertise.
- 8.2. The proposal must support UM and CoE's respective thrust areas.
- 8.3. The proposal must be sound, technically feasible with achievable milestones, and has a potential for further development.
- 8.4. Research competence: The CoE research team must have excellent track records of conducting research projects to completion.

9. OWNERSHIP AND USE OF R&D EQUIPMENT

- 9.1. All R&D equipment purchased under this grant are owned by UM as pooled resources. The equipment is not meant for the exclusive use of the researcher.

10. RESEARCH OUTPUT

- 10.1. Towards the final stages of the project, the researcher is expected to deliver the following outcomes

No	Item	Output	
10.1	Number of publications based on the funding amount scale	RM25,000 - RM50,000	Two (2) Q1/Q2 WOS-indexed journal articles
		> RM50,000	Four (4) Q1/Q2 WOS-indexed journal article
10.2	Human Capital	one (1) Master's or PhD graduate	
10.3	Collaboration	at least one (1) Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) or Letter of Agreement (LoA) with a government agency, private sector entity, industry partner, or international institution	
10.4	Intellectual Property Right (IPR)	one (1) patent or copyright under UM	

11. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 11.1. Applications must be submitted through the application form in CoE-CG-Appendix A. Please refer to the checklist form.
- 11.2. Application for the CoE-CG must be submitted to:
Coordinator
Research Cluster Office
Level 7, Research Management & Innovation Complex
Universiti Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur