

## Policy for Seed Money

### About Seed Money Policy

Rayat Bahra University (RBU)-a higher education institution understands the necessity to assist its faculty members & offers the Seed Money to encourage research and innovation among faculty. No research project, however, can be completed instantly, and the amount of research money available is similarly restricted. In addition to having significant external funding, projects with significant scientific merit are given preference. The requirements, guidelines, and instructions for obtaining the grant are described in this Seed Money Policy, along with the grant's general nature.

### Terminology Used:

**University:** Refers to Rayat Bahra University (RBU)

**Research:** Systematic Intellectual research projects for locating, analysing, and updating human knowledge (NAAC Manual for Universities, December 2019, p. 134). Writing research proposals, contributing to book chapters, writing textbooks and monographs, providing guidance for dissertation work (UG/PG/Ph.D.), developing new courses and teaching materials, and being accepted for publication or presentation at conferences are all examples of research work that is required.

**Central Research Committee (CRC):** Various University level committees i.e. Central Research Committee (CRC), Ethical Committee and Institutional Animal Ethical Committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor for the smooth conductance of the research activities at the University.

**Seed Money:** "Funds granted to a teacher or group of instructors by the university to start the research to enable the compilation of [a] formal research proposal for funding," according to the definition given by the organisation. UGC NAAC Manual.

**Principal Investigator (PI):** The main Investigator & Coordinator of the research project.

**Co-Investigator (CoI):** Co-Investigator of the research project

### Objectives of Seed Money Policy:

The majority of funding organisations demand that applicants have some past research job experience. Consequently, it can be challenging for faculty members to secure funding for their initiatives while they are just starting out in their careers. Through the provision of an initial grant to such academic members, RBU's seed money grant programme seeks to address this issue by helping them get their research projects off the ground.

Using this original work, faculty members may apply to external backing agencies (both public as well as private) to take their systems to their intended pretensions. Therefore, seed money is less of a research grant than it is a grant to secure additional research grants from outside organizations.

## **General Rules for Applicants for Seed Money Grant**

### **1. Who Can Apply:**

All Professors, Associate Professors and full-time Assistant Professors of RBU (whether permanent or on probation) are eligible for Seed Money Grant.

### **2. Procedure To Apply:**

- (i) Interested faculty members must submit their proposal to the Chairperson, CRC.
- (ii) Collaborative proposals from faculty members are also permitted. Only one of them, though, can be named PI.
- (iii) The CRC Chairperson will evaluate the proposal for its importance to the advancement of science and society.
- (iv) The committee has the option to schedule a face-to-face interview with the faculty.
- (v) The report of CRC committee will be submitted to the Chairperson, CRC who may approve/reject the proposal.
- (vi) The faculty may reapply if the proposal is turned down after taking the CRC committee's suggestions and recommendations into consideration. If the proposal is accepted, it will be sent to the Vice Chancellor's office for final approval.
- (vii) The proposal will be sent by the Vice Chancellor's office to the Finance Section for proper action regarding the release of funds after being approved by the Vice Chancellor.
- (viii) In accordance with current standards, the funds won't be transferred directly to the faculty member's account. Instead, the sanctioned amount will be paid back or incurred when the RBU receives the invoices.

### **3. Assessment of Seed Money Grant:**

- (i) The CRC Chairperson must form teams to conduct a quarterly evaluation of all research projects funded by this Seed Money Grant. This will also entail a review of the project-related accounts.
- (ii) The PI is required to provide a quarterly report to the CRC outlining the status of the research project.
- (iii) The CRC Chairperson has the authority to refuse funding at any point in the research process if they find that the report or the proceedings are not satisfactory.
- (iv) The Chairperson CRC may recommend to the Vice Chancellor to withdraw the grant if the research work is progressing in an entirely unsatisfactory manner. In this case, faculty members are required to reimburse the funds already allocated.

- (v) The PI is required to give the CRC a thorough report at the project's conclusion. The work completed, the results obtained and the future directions for research in the work presented must all be included in the report.
- (vi) The grant's duration cannot exceed the generally mentioned prescribed time. However, the grant may be extended for an additional year based on the decision of the CRC Chairperson.
- (vii) In general, a project proposed by a faculty member may receive up to one lakh rupees in seed funding. Up to a total of 2.5 lakhs, the Chairperson CRC may decide to award more money with the Vice Chancellor's consent.
- (viii) The grant may be up to 10 lakhs in cases of collaboration between RBU faculty members, but only with proper approval from higher authorities.
- (ix) Faculty are expected to upgrade these research projects into more significant research projects by submitting grant applications to external funding organizations in accordance with the goal of the Seed Money Grant Scheme.
- (x) Faculty members are not permitted to use the seed money for their PhD projects.
- (xi) Professors are not permitted to hire research assistants, associates, or students for the research project. Although students might participate in the project, the faculty is expected to conduct a sizable portion of the research on their own.
- (xii) If the Principal Investigator (PI) decides to leave the project or the university while it is being carried out under the Seed Money Grant Scheme, the University will be given a refund of all funds received, less any that have already been applied to the project.
- (xiii) All items purchased through the Seed Money Grant Scheme will become the property of the University.
- (xiv) The general policies and procedures of the University regarding intellectual property will apply to any intellectual property created as part of such a project.

  
(Vice-Chancellor)