

Post Graduate Support Grant (PGSG)

Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority

www.stdf.org.eg

Guide for Applicants

November 2020

I. Introduction

Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority **STDF** was founded in August 22nd, 2019 under law 150/2019 as a national public authority under the administration of Ministry of Scientific Research to fund research and technology development through competitive grants. **STDF** also supports scientific innovation cycle through licensing generated technologies and emerging spin off companies. **STDF** ultimate goal is to establish state of the art scientific research for sustainable development through knowledge and innovation based economy. STDF implements its objectives within the context of the national S&T development strategy, which was established by the Higher Council for Science & Technology. The Egyptian Ministries with the strongest impact on Egypt's national economy are represented in the council. This allowed the stirring of the research activities towards the S&T which has a direct influence on the national development plans. Since its establishment, STDF has disbursed tens of millions of Egyptian pounds to fund researchers in universities and research institutions to improve the research and development capacity. The current program reflects **STDF's** intention to build upon what has been achieved so far. Among the focus thematic, **STDF** is building human capacities of young scientists engaged in graduate research programs in pursue of Master and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. An adequate fund program is thought to meet research needs and facilities in order for the young scientists to reach high quality research outcomes.

II. Grant Description & Grant Objectives

The purpose of this grant is to support post graduate studies researchers - Master's degree (MSc) students and Doctorate degree (PhD) students- in achieving their approved research plans, which aligns with Egypt Vision 2030. The objectives of this grant are:

- To support the young Egyptian scientists and innovators in conducting different research activities;
- To improve the working environment for researchers;
- To improve the researchers' capabilities and research quality.

III. Eligibility Criteria

The following eligibility criteria will be applied for this grant:

- The applicant must be an Egyptian post graduate student affiliated with a **Public** Egyptian University or Research Institution and passed successfully the preparatory courses & exams. The applicant should provide an authenticated ongoing research plan from his University of affiliation.

- The proposal must be endorsed by the academic supervisor and the institution legal representative.
- The proposed working plan must be within the main areas mentioned in the application form.
- The proposed activities must be presented in the form of a well-planned project which addresses an important subject, has clearly defined objectives and outcomes, and detailed methodology.
- The proposed research activities should not be funded by any other STDF funding grant program, any other funding agency before or during the application to the current call.

IV. Submission Process

All applications must be uploaded on STDF`s website (www.stdf.org.eg) at which registration is required. The detailed proposal should be drafted according to the template and guidelines for preparing STDF proposals.

V. Budget and Duration

- The total budget should not exceed:
250,000 L.E for Master students
350,000 L.E. for Doctorate students.
- The implementation period of the project should be completed within two years for Master students and within three years for Doctorate students.

VI. Eligible Expenses

The eligible expenditures of this grant must be directly linked to performing the post graduate (Ph.D., M.Sc.) research activities. Funds from this grant could be directed towards:

- Purchase of non-capital/central equipment and tools;
- Purchase of consumable supplies & materials (chemicals, laboratory supplies, stationery,...etc.)
- Fees for use of facilities in other national research institutions;
- Manufacture of specimens and prototypes;
- Field studies and data collection missions;
- Purchase or acquiring access to specialized reference sources, databases or computer software;
- Expenses related to patent filing or Intellectual property IP management.
- Publication cost in periodicals listed in Web of Science database and ranked as (Q1 for Ph.D. students/ Q1 & Q2 for M.Sc. students) in Journal of Citation Reports (JCR).

VII. General Remarks and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to the grant:

- All proposals must be filled using the exact formatting requirements for the current call given in the attached Application Form. Failure to adhere to the exact format required will automatically disqualify the submitted proposal.
- All proposals must be uploaded to the STDF's website (www.stdf.org.eg); proposals submitted by e-mail or as hard copies will not be considered.
- All proposals MUST be in English.
- All proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis.
- The application must include a letter from the implementing institution's legal representative stating the following: The project title, the name, position and affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI), the student, in charge of the proposal, that the project idea was not funded or submitted to another agency (national or international), and that the institution approves the project. This letter must be signed by the student supervisor and signed & stamped by the institution.
- All provided publication should be extracted from the core of the project proposal.
- Any publications delivered as a result of STDF funded proposals, should acknowledge STDF funding in the publication.
- STDF IPR rules and regulations in addition to STDF code of ethics are applied on all relevant cases.
- The scientific material of all proposals will undergo plagiarism test (not allowed more than 20%).
- Extending the project duration is not allowed.
- International travel is only allowed for attending the conferences that are from the top 5% in the field.
- PI Incentives will be calculated according to his/her publication in the top ranked journals according to web of science:
Ph.D. student will receive 30,000 L.E. upon publishing in the top 25% Journals,
M.Sc. student will receive 30,000 L.E. upon publishing in the top 25% Journals, and he/she will receive 20,000 L.E. upon publishing in the top 50% Journals)
- Indirect cost should not exceed 2%.

VIII. Project Follow-up

Technical progress reports:

Semi-annual progress reports should be submitted by the PI during the execution of the project, starting after 6 months of project start date. In general, all technical reports should be written using the standard STDF templates, signed by the student supervisor and stamped by the host institution.

In cases where modifications in the research team and/or original work plan are necessary, such modifications must be pre-approved by STDF, and the progress reports should include a modified (updated) Gantt chart that takes the approved modifications into consideration.

Final Report and Achievements Report:

Within one month following the official end date of the project, the “Final Report” together with an “Achievements Report” must be submitted, using the standard STDF templates for “final reports” and for the “Achievements Report”.

Evaluation of technical reports:

All submitted reports are evaluated by STDF, and feedback is sent to project’s PI and host institute.

In the event of receiving a progress report that is rejected by evaluators, STDF has the authority to impose additional follow-up reports (totally independent from the regular progress reports stated before). In the event that the evaluators of progress reports give a justified recommendation to terminate the project (for reasons including scientific misconduct by the PI, plagiarism, lack of seriousness, etc.), STDF reserves the right to terminate the project, in which case STDF will recover all funds and expenses paid prior to the project termination date.

Financial reports:

Two reports are requested every year (biannually). Copies of all expenditure vouchers must be attached. The reports, as well as all the attached expenditure vouchers, must be signed by the student supervisor and stamped by the official seal of the endorsing institution.

IX. Payment of Funds

When a project is approved by STDF, a funding contract will be signed by STDF, the Principal Investigator (PI) and the legal representative of the endorsing institution/center/university.

The budget will be disbursed on subsequent installments. The first installment will be disbursed at the beginning of the project. The following installments will be paid after the receipt and approval of the technical and financial progress reports.

The disbursement of the final installment of the project (10% of the budget) is conditioned by the delivery of the outputs mentioned in the proposal in the scheduled time (such as know-how

(patent), product(s), prototype, Impacted International journal articles ...etc.) and subject to the internal rules and regulations of STDF.

X. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Within this context, it is mandatory that the PI obtains STDF's approval before disclosure, in any form (i.e. publication, scientific presentation in a meeting, public announcement, patent filing ..etc.) of data, findings or conclusions reached as a result of conducting the project activities. This ensures the protection of the PI's IPR, as well as those of STDF.