



Grant applications for PhD students #1

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On the presentation

- Submit questions via chat:
 - I will answer during or after presentation, or after group work.
- Send email to esmari@hi.is if you have serious problems (no sound etc.)



Overview: day one

1. First part (40 minutes)
 - a. The Icelandic Research Fund.
 - b. Principles for writing grant applications.
2. Break (10 minutes)
3. Second part (40 minutes)
 - a. Group work.



Course plan

- **Week 1:** Introduction to IRF and writing an application; group work on objectives.
- **Week 2:** Impact, peer-review, research plan; group work on societal impact of research.
- **Week 3:** Peer-review (send draft applications Friday 26 June); groups work as evaluation panels.



PHD FUNDING AND THE IRF



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Funding for PhD research

- Funding can be (**bold** applies to the IRF)
 - internal or **external**
 - **public** or private
 - **domestic** or international
 - **individual scholarships** or participation in **projects**
 - from **general** or targeted research funds / programmes
 - with open or **fixed** deadlines
 - **full** or partial
- For information
 - ask research manager at your school and your supervisor



Main funders of PhD research

- University of Iceland: Research Fund / Eimskip University Fund
 - Individual scholarships
 - Deadline: Mid-January
- The Icelandic Research Fund
 - Individual scholarships or grants within projects
 - Deadline: 15 July (usually 15 June)
- Nordic, European, International funds and programmes
 - Large diversity of funders, funding programmes, deadlines ...
- Other
 - Targeted funds; small-scale grants; travel grants (e.g. Erasmus+)



Icelandic Research Fund

- Application deadline: 15 July (16:00)
- Announcement: January 2021
- Maximum grant period: 3 years
- Scholarships and collaborative research projects



Icelandic Research Fund

- Main policy:
 - Novelty and quality.
 - Impact (societal – increasingly).
 - Career development and training.
 - Gender balance.



Icelandic Research Fund

- Grant types (3 year max. grant):
 - Grants of Excellence (120 MISK)
 - Project Grants (45 MISK)
 - Postdoctoral Grants (24 MISK)
 - PhD grants (16 MISK)



PhD Grants

- Scholarships for PhD students.
 - Must be registered or accepted by the deadline.
- Icelandic university; joint degree also possible.
- Maximum of 15 grants each year.



Evaluation of PhD grant applications

- Only evaluated by the review panel!
 - No external experts.
 - You cannot assume that a specialist in your field will read your application.
- The board studies highest ranked applications.



Educate the evaluators!

- With:
 - Clear and immediate statements of aims.
 - Why is the project timely and important? (in terms general enough for evaluation panel and board).
 - Specific and explicit descriptions (of methodology and theory, the research group, etc).



PhD Salaries

- Salaries in individual scholarships is lower than in projects.
 - Max funding for PhD students: 16 MISK (3 years).
 - For travel: 900.000 ISK.
 - Salaries: $15,1 \text{ MISK} / 36 \text{ months} = 419.000 \text{ ISK pr. month}$ for salaries and salary related expenses.



Salary costs

- The figures are for salaries **including** salary related expenses (about 20% of the amount).
 - Salary related expenses = pension fund.



APPLICATIONS





Application deadline for grant year 2021 is 15 July at 16:00

✓ Open for Applications: **Application System** 

If you do NOT have Icelandic ID (kennitala) please send email to: [Send email](#)

[IRF handbook for the grant year 2021](#) 

Role

The Icelandic Research Fund (IRF) is an open competitive fund which provides research grants according to the general priorities of the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council and based on peer review of proposals.

The role of the IRF is to enhance scientific research (basic and applied) and research education in Iceland. For this purpose the IRF awards funding to research projects led by individuals, research teams, universities, research institutes, and companies.

Horizon 2020

Icelandic Language

Technology Fund

■ Icelandic Research Fund

How to Apply

Expert Panels and
Evaluation

Board

Final & Annual Reports

IRF Statistics and
previous Awards

Icelandic Student



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30 days until deadline

rannís Doctoral student grant

Application:217574-051

- 1. PROJECT
- 2. PARTICIPANTS
- 3. PROJECT PLAN
- 4. BUDGET
- 5. ATTACHMENTS
- 6. VIEW AND SUBMIT

Icelandic Research Fund (IRF) online submission system.

A template for the project description including reference list is accessible below. Please refer to the Icelandic Research Fund's Handbook 2021 (accessible to the right) and instructions in the template. Before the project description is uploaded into the application system, the list of references should be detached and placed in a separate file. These two files should be uploaded separately as PDF-files in section 5.1.

Please note that in this form it is necessary to register the participants before entering information for the project plan and the budget. A budget help document is available below, the document is not a part of the application and should not be submitted. For the Work Packages (WP) you first need to specify the duration of the project. The online application system generates a GANTT chart showing the duration of the WPs as soon as you have defined them. In the project description template, the GANTT chart and the WP descriptions can be referred to.

The progress of the registration form can be viewed under the View and Submit section.

NOTE – it can take a couple of days to fill in the online submission form

[Project Description Format 2021 - Word](#)

[Project Description Format 2021 - Libre Office](#)

For Project Description Format 2021 in LaTeX please contact Steinunn S. Jakobsdóttir or Ægir Þór Þórsson

[Budget – help document in excel is available here](#)

Using Internet Explorer or Microsoft Edge is not recommended

Please remember to save all entered information by clicking on the diskette icon before leaving a page



Useful links

[Project Description](#)

[Format 2021](#)

[Introduction videos](#)

[IRF-Handbook 2021](#)

[IRF-Handbook 2021](#)

[\(Icelandic\) definitive](#)

[Rannís Privacy Policy](#)

[Contacts](#)



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The Icelandic Research Fund 2021
Detailed project description

<Double click to insert the principal investigator's name>

a. SPECIFIC AIMS OF THE PROJECT, RESEARCH QUESTIONS/HYPOTHESES, FEASIBILITY, ORIGINALITY AND IMPACT

<please insert appropriate material (i.e. text, pictures and/or tables)>

b. PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD

<please insert appropriate material (i.e. text, pictures and/or tables)>

c. RESEARCH PLAN (TIME AND WORK PLAN, METHODOLOGY, MILESTONES, PRESENT STATUS OF PROJECT, ETC.) AND DELIVERABLES. YOU CAN REFER TO THE LIST OF MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES IN PART 3.2 IN THE IRF ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SYSTEM. EXPLAIN IF CONSENTS AND/OR PERMITS ARE NEEDED

<please insert appropriate material (i.e. text, pictures and/or tables)>

d. MANAGEMENT AND CO-OPERATION (DOMESTIC/FOREIGN)

<please insert appropriate material (i.e. text, pictures and/or tables)>

e. PROPOSED PUBLICATION OF RESULTS AND DATA (INCLUDING ADHERENCE TO OPEN ACCESS POLICY)

<please insert appropriate material (i.e. text, pictures and/or tables)>

- Max. 5 pages (+ bibliography).
1. Assume the evaluators (i.e. the panel) mostly work on the basis of this document.
 2. Start section a. with a clear description of your aims and objectives.
 3. Parts d. and e. can be short (you can get some standard formulations from your Research managers).



EVALUATION OF EVALUATIONS





Highly ranked applications #1

- *Strengths:*
 - **Originality, innovativeness, novelty.**
 - **Clarity of goals.**
 - Timeliness, importance and (societal) impact (Grants of Exc. and Proj. Grants).
 - **Methodology and theory.**



Highly ranked applications #2

- *Strengths:*
 - Strong and coherent research team (Grants of Exc. and Proj. Grants) or strong applicant (Postdoctoral Grants).
 - **State-of-art (PhD Grants).**
 - Student involvement and training (Grants of Exc. and Proj. Grants).



Lower ranked applications #1

- *Weaknesses:*
 - **Conventional, lack of novelty.**
 - **Methodology and theory unclear or underdeveloped.**
 - **State-of-art incomplete.**
 - **Too complex and incoherent; underdeveloped.**



Lower ranked applications #2

- *Weaknesses:*
 - Lack of international focus.
 - Integration of disciplines unclear.
 - Uneven team (Grants of Exc. and Proj. Grants).
 - Gender aspects superficial.



Additional comments #1

- Some highly ranked applications are criticized for being too ambitious and complex or methodologically/theoretically unclear.
 - Other strengths trump these weaknesses; mainly novelty and impact.



Additional comments #2

- On resubmissions: Tricky balance between changing too much and too little, especially for highly ranked applications.
 - Tendency to make minor adjustments based on evaluation.
 - Necessity of presenting something new and original.



Principles of application writing

1. Respect the objectives of the funder
2. Focus on the future – what you are going to do
3. Approach as a much needed project
4. Be convincing
5. Be personal
6. Approach application as team work
7. Shorten your speech
8. Use simple language



Group work (30 min.)

- Groups of 3 (mostly).
 - Start by introducing your research to each other.
 - In discussions: Focus on 1) the main question/hypothesis; 2) the value or potential impact of the research.
 - Follow strictly: Each participant has 5-7 minutes to present their work.
- Send questions through the chat and I will try to answer in the last 10 minutes.