OSMANIAUNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SEED GRANT SCHEME FOR FACULTY MEMBERS -2026

I. Introduction

The Seed Grant Scheme for Research is a prestigious institutional initiative of Osmania University introduced under the visionary leadership of the Honourable Vice-Chancellor to strengthen the research ecosystem and promote academic excellence across disciplines. The scheme reflects the University's commitment to encouraging innovative ideas, interdisciplinary collaboration, socially relevant research, and outcome-oriented academic work among faculty members. It aims to support creative and impactful research proposals that contribute to knowledge generation, policy development, technological advancement, and sustainable societal progress while enhancing the University's reputation as a centre of excellence in research and innovation.

The scheme provides financial assistance to faculty members for undertaking innovative, interdisciplinary, and socially relevant research projects. The programme is intended to encourage exploratory research, pilot studies, field investigations, archival and laboratory research, community-based studies, and the generation of preliminary data required for larger externally funded projects. It also seeks to enhance research quality through robust methodologies, ethical practices, digital tools, and collaboration. The scheme promotes publication of research papers, policy-oriented outputs, patents, conference presentations, and academic networking at national and international levels. Through this initiative, the University aims to strengthen research capacity among faculty members and establish itself as a centre of excellence in research and innovation.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the Seed Grant Scheme are:

- To support the preparation of high-quality and methodologically rigorous research proposals.
- To promote innovative, interdisciplinary, and socially relevant research aligned with Quality Research (QR) standards.
- To encourage research addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, gender equity, sustainable development, peace, justice, and decent work.
- To facilitate pilot studies, fieldwork, archival research, surveys, laboratory experiments, and evidence-based academic work.
- To strengthen research design, data validation, triangulation, reliability, and ethical research practices.
- To encourage the use of digital tools advanced software, and audio-visual documentation methods in research.
- To support scholarly writing, publication development, policy briefs, patents, and dissemination activities.

- To improve the potential of researchers to secure external funding from national and international agencies.
- To promote collaboration and academic networking within and outside the University.

III. Eligibility

The following are eligible to apply under the Seed Grant Scheme:

- Regular faculty members of Osmania University possessing a Ph.D. degree.
- Applicants must have completed at least one year of service in the University and possess a proven research track record.
- Applications may be submitted by:
    - Individual faculty members, or
    - Groups of faculty members (maximum four members) from the same or different departments of the university.

Mandatory Submission of Research Proposal by Faculty Members

- All faculty members shall mandatorily apply for the research project proposal.
- A faculty member may apply as Principal Investigator (PI) for only one research project at a time, either:
  An Individual Research Project or a Collaborative Research Project.
- A faculty member who is serving as PI for an Individual Research Project may also participate as Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) in one Collaborative Research Project simultaneously.
- A faculty member shall not serve as Co-PI in more than one Collaborative Research Project at the same time.
- Under no circumstances shall a faculty member hold:
  PI status in more than one project simultaneously or Co-PI status in more than one collaborative project simultaneously.
- Therefore, the maximum permissible participation of a faculty member at any given time shall be:
  One project as PI and One project as Co-PI.

Additional Conditions:

- Proposals shall be invited annually in the prescribed format.
- The plagiarism similarity index shall not exceed 15%.

IV. Research Disciplines

Research proposals are invited from the following disciplines:

1. Arts & Humanities
2. Commerce
3. Education
4. Engineering
5. Informatics
6. Law
7. Management
8. Oriental Languages
9. Pharmacy
10. Sciences
11. Social Sciences
12. Technology
13. Collaborative Multidisciplinary Research

Preference will be given to proposals aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 14 – Life Below Water
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

V. Categories of Seed Grant

A. Minor Seed Grant

- Grant Amount: ₹1,00,000
- Duration: 12 Months

B. Major Seed Grant- I

- Grant Amount: ₹2,00,000
- Duration: 20 Months

C. Major Seed Grant-II

- Grant Amount: ₹3,00,000
- Duration: 24 Months

D. Collaborative Multidisciplinary Seed Grant-I

- Grant Amount: ₹4,00,000
- Duration: 30 Months

E. Collaborative Multidisciplinary Seed Grant-II

- Grant Amount: ₹5,00,000
- Duration: 36 Months

VI. Budget Heads

FORMAT – I

Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Pharmacy & Allied Disciplines

Budget Head	Percentage
Equipment / Software / Minor Instruments	20%
Consumables / Laboratory Materials / Chemicals	35%
Repairs & Maintenance of Equipment	5%
Field Work / Experimental Visits / Survey / Travel	20%
Contingency	15%
Miscellaneous / Special Needs	5%

FORMAT – II

Arts, Social Sciences, Commerce, Management, Law & Education

Budget Head	Percentage
Field Survey / Interviews / Field Visits / Case Studies	40%
Manuscript Collection / Archival Access / Documentation / Report Writing	30%

Seminars / Conferences / Workshops (Organized by reputed institutions/ Universities	15%
Contingency	10%
Miscellaneous / Special Needs	5%

VII. Research Proposal Format

The proposal should contain the following components:

S. No.	Component	Suggested Word Limit
1	Project Title	—
2	Research Domain	—
3	Abstract	300 words
4	Origin and Background of the Research Proposal	500 words
5	Literature Review	600 words
6	Research Gap	300 words
7	Research Objectives	200 words
8	Research Questions / Hypotheses	200 words
9	Research Methodology	500 words
10	Innovation and Research Significance	150–200 words
11	Expected Outcomes & Deliverables	300 words
12	Work Plan & Milestones	—
13	Budget Proposal	—

Expected outcomes may include:

- Publications in Q1 and Q2 Journals/Scopus/Web of Science indexed
- Policy briefs and technical reports
- Patents, products, or process development
- Training modules and outreach materials
- High-impact research outputs

VIII. Work Plan and Milestones

Minor Seed Grant (Rs. 1, 00,000 /— 12 Months)

Phase	Duration	Major Activities
Phase I	Months 1–2	Literature review, research design, procurement, tool development
Phase II	Months 3–5	Fieldwork, surveys, experiments, data collection
Phase III	Months 6–7	Data compilation and preliminary analysis
Phase IV	Months 8–10	Interpretation, drafting findings, and outputs
Phase V	Months 11–12	Final report, publications, utilization certificates

Major Seed Grant-I (Rs. 2, 00,000/- – 20 Months)

Phase	Duration	Major Activities
Phase I	Months 1—3	Literature review, methodology design, procurement

Phase II	Months 4–8	Fieldwork, experiments, surveys, archival research
Phase III	Months 9–12	Data analysis, validation, progress review
Phase IV	Months 13–16	Preparation of publications, reports, dissemination materials
Phase V	Months 17–20	Final report, seminars/workshops, financial closure

Major Seed Grant-II (Rs.3, 00,000/- – 24 Months)

Phase	Duration	Major Activities
Phase I	Months 1–4	Literature review, methodology design, Procurement
Phase II	Months 5–9	Fieldwork, experiments, surveys, archival Research
Phase III	Months 10–14	Data analysis, validation, progress review
Phase IV	Months 15–20	Preparation of publications, reports, Dissemination materials
Phase V	Months 21–24	Final report, seminars/workshops, financial closure

Collaborative Multidisciplinary Seed Grant-I (Rs. 4, 00, 000/— 30 Months)

Phase	Duration	Major Activities
Phase I	Months 1—5	Formation of multidisciplinary consortium, framework finalization
Phase II	Months 6–13	Joint research implementation, collaborative field activities
Phase III	Months 14–20	Integrated data analysis, interdisciplinary review
Phase IV	Months 21–26	Joint publications, policy advocacy, outreach and dissemination
Phase V	Months 27–30	Final collaborative report, documentation, financial settlement

Collaborative Multidisciplinary Seed Grant-II (Rs. 5, OO, OOO /— 36 Months)

Phase	Duration	Major Activities
Phase I	Months 1—6	Formation of multidisciplinary consortium, framework finalization
Phase II	Months 7–16	Joint research implementation, collaborative field activities

Phase III	Months 17–24	Integrated data analysis, interdisciplinary review
Phase IV	Months 25–31	Joint publications, policy advocacy, outreach and dissemination
Phase V	Months 32–36	Final collaborative report, documentation, financial settlement

Note:

- AI-based tools may be utilized for data collection, analysis, digital documentation, tracking, and report preparation.
- Geo-tagged photographs must clearly display the location, date, time, and activity details for verification purposes.
- Non-submission of geo-tagged photographs and AI-supported documentation may be treated as non-compliance with the prescribed guidelines.

IX. Selection and Evaluation Process

Departmental Research Committee shall scrutinize the proposals. Shortlisted applicants shall present their proposals before the Review Committee. Final selection shall be based on:

- Academic merit and originality
- Methodological soundness and feasibility
- Societal relevance and innovation
- Research track record of the applicant
- Potential for publications, patents, collaborations, and external funding

Preference shall be given to projects aligned with the thrust areas of the Department and the University. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor shall serve as Chairperson. Final selection will be based on the review of one external expert and the discretion of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

X. Release and Utilization of Funds

- The grant shall be released in instalments based on approved timelines and satisfactory progress.
- Submission of progress reports and utilization certificates is mandatory.
- Funds must be utilized strictly according to approved budget heads and University financial rules.
- Procurement and equipment usage shall follow University regulations.

The following expenditures are not permitted under the Seed Grant:

- Article Processing Charges (APC)
- Patent filing charges
- Purchase of laptops and printers

XI. Ethical Considerations and Institutional Compliance

The applicant shall ensure:

1. Adherence to academic integrity and research ethics.
2. Proper acknowledgement and referencing of all cited works.
3. Originality of the research proposal.
4. Necessary approvals from competent authorities before commencement of research.

Institutional approvals required:

- Department Research Committee approval
- Institutional Ethics Committee approval (if applicable)
- Plagiarism Report (15% or below)

XII. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Applicants shall submit:

- Duly filled application form
- Detailed research proposal in prescribed format
- Curriculum Vitae of PI/Co-PI
- List of publications and patents
- Departmental approval
- Ethical clearance (if applicable)
- Any additional annexures required

XIII. Submission Format

Requirement	Details
Format	A4 Size
Font	Times New Roman, 12 pt
Spacing	1.5 Line Spacing
File Format	PDF
Naming Convention	[Applicant Name]_[Department]_Seed Grant Proposal
Supporting Documents	Mandatory Annexures as per University guidelines

XIV. Submission Address

Office of the Dean of Respective Faculties
Osmania University
Hyderabad – 500007
Telangana, India

XV. General Conditions

- The Principal Investigator (PI) shall be responsible for proper execution of the project.
- Progress reports must be submitted every six months through the proper channel to the Office of the Dean, Development and UGC Affairs, Osmania University.
- Continuation of funding is subject to satisfactory progress.
- A final report containing research outcomes, publications, grants, patents, and impact assessment shall be submitted after completion of the project.
- University affiliation must be acknowledged in all publications, presentations, patents, and related outputs.
- All intellectual property generated through the project shall belong to Osmania University

XVI. IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Schedule
Release of Notification	01 June 2026
Opening of Online/Offline Applications	02 June 2026
Last Date for Submission of Applications	20 June 2026
Preliminary Review of Proposals	21–24 June 2026

Activity	Schedule
Presentation Before the Internal Evaluation Committee	26–28 June 2026
Communication of Selected Proposals	30 June 2026
Commencement of the Seed Grant Scheme	01 July 2026

Conclusion

The Seed Grant Scheme for Research Programme of Osmania University is envisioned as a strategic initiative to foster a vibrant research culture, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and promote socially impactful and globally relevant research. The programme aims to support faculty members in generating quality research outputs, securing external funding, and contributing to the advancement of knowledge and innovation in alignment with national priorities and global development goals. It encourages exploratory research, pilot studies, field investigations, archival and laboratory research, community-based studies, and the generation of preliminary data required for larger externally funded projects. The scheme also seeks to enhance research quality through robust methodologies, ethical practices, digital tools, and interdisciplinary collaboration while promoting publications, policy-oriented outputs, patents, conference presentations, and academic networking at national and international levels. Through this initiative, the University aims to strengthen research capacity among faculty members and establish itself as a centre of excellence in research and innovation.