

**Researchers'
Incentives Program
Based On Open
Research Grant
Outputs**

Introduction

Rewarding researchers through the Open Research Grant (ORG) Program on the basis of their research outputs came as a means to promote research excellence and build a capacity for research to support the economic and social growth in the Sultanate of Oman.

Objectives

The program seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase the level of research productivity and promote interest in research.
- Increase the number of active researchers in Oman.
- Improve the quality of ORG management (Annual budget expenditure and progress/final reports submission date)
- Motivate researchers to contribute to research capacity building by graduating Omani postgraduate students.
- Promote publication in international refereed journals.
- Promote the granting and filing of patents.
- Promote a research culture in the Sultanate.

Definition of Terms:

- **The Research Council (TRC):** Governmental organization responsible for coordinating and funding particular areas of research in the Sultanate of Oman
- **Open Research Grant (ORG):** A small to mid-sized research grant for short and mid-term projects initiated by researchers from institutions affiliated with The Research Electronic Submission System (TRESS) at TRC.
- **Research Area Manager (RAM):** An individual in charge of managing one of TRC Research areas which includes: Education and human resources, culture, basic, and social sciences, energy and industry, information and communication technology, environmental and biological resources and health and social development.
- **Research Administration Director (RAD):** an individual in charge of managing the administrative and financial affairs of the TRC research sectors.
- **Institutional Focal Point (IFP):** An individual in the research organization who is responsible for endorsing any application sent to TRC from the research organization and facilitating the communication between TRC and the research organization on any issues concerning on-going Open Research Grants.
- **Institution:** Public and private organizations which are affiliated electronically with TRC.
- **ORG outputs:** Outcomes which researchers achieve from ORGs in order to qualify for financial incentives.
- **Financial Incentives:** Lump-sum amount of money awarded to institutes and researchers who achieve outputs based on their ORGs.
- **Publication:** The act of publishing a book, research paper, and chapter in a book, resulting from ORGs.

- **Patent:** Right granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, resulting from ORGs.
- **Earning a Degree:** process in which Omani students are academically supervised until earning their Master or Ph.D degrees, resulting from ORGs.
- **Expenditure of 75% of ORG Total Budget:** Process in which researchers manage to spend 75% of ORG total budget for every year of their ORGs. (This includes the possible carry forward of previous amounts). Why there is no need to include this definition.
- **Submission of progress Report:** Accomplished annual research activities cascading from ORG within two months from due date submission of the report, as per the initial contract between TRC and the research institution.
- **Submission of Final Report:** Accomplished overall research activities cascading from ORG within two months from due date submission of the report, as per the initial contract between TRC and the research institution.
- **Research Directory (RD):** A database where researchers can record their personal data and research activities and update their research ORG outputs.

- **The Research Electronic Submission System (TRESS):** An electronic system which enables researchers to apply for ORG financial incentives outputs.

Table (1): Research Outputs and Financial Values

No	Output	Conditions	Financial Incentive in OMR	Required Documents
1	Publishing in a refereed journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research is published in a refereed journal and categorized according to any of the following: Research published in journals which are indexed in the SCOPUS database or Web of Science indexed Journals (SIJ). Research published in classified Arabic periodicals The Research Council of Oman" should be acknowledged as a funder in the publication. 	1500	A PDF file of the publication
2	Publishing a chapter in a book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with the International Standard Book Number (ISBN). The Research Council of Oman should be acknowledged as a funder in the publication. 	500	A PDF file of the chapter
3	Publishing a book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with the International Standard Book Number (ISBN). The Research Council of Oman should be acknowledged as a funder in the publication. 	2000	A PDF file of the book
4	Omani student earning a Master's Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Council of Oman should be acknowledged as a funder in the thesis. 	1000	A snapshot of the certificate of completion page
5	Omani student earning a Ph.D. Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Council of Oman should be acknowledged as a funder in the thesis 	2000	A snapshot of the certificate of completion page and
6	Granting Patent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patent should be granted in a registered office by WIPO in any country. 	1000	A snapshot of the granted certificate
7	Spending 75% of the ORG Annual Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system calculates the percentage and automatically processes financial incentive. 	500	
8	TRC Approval of the progress and final reports within two months of the end of progress/final		200	

Researchers' Incentive Program Requirements

- Applications for financial incentives are limited to ORG projects and must be based on ORG outputs identified in Table 1, comply with ORG outputs' special conditions, and include supporting documents for each ORG output.

The application does not consider other research activities such as participation in a conference, presenting a paper, publishing in non-refereed journals, or as yet an unattained patent for financial incentives.

- For completed ORGs, any application for financial incentive must be submitted within three years after the completion of a given ORG project. TRC may exempt granting a patent output from this period.
- For on-going ORGs, the PI may submit applications for financial incentives only once a year immediately after the submission and approval of the progress/final report by TRC within two months of due date submission as per the contract between TRC and the institution.

- In a condition where one PI has more than one ORG, one of which is on-going and the others are completed, a separate application must be submitted for each project.
- The institution may allocate an amount not exceeding 25% of the financial incentives to support its efforts in the field of research. The remaining amount should be divided among the research team according to what has been agreed upon in the institute.
- The financial incentives are delivered directly to the institute. The institute is responsible for delivering the incentives to the ORG research team according to the institution's rules and regulations. TRC bears no responsibility in this matter.

Researcher's Incentive Program Application Procedures

This program applies to current ORG and those completed within the last three years.

- The PI updates/enters his/her achieved ORG outputs' data in the Research Directory (RD), accessible from TRC's website. Researcher clicks on the option at the top of the page to associate outputs to the ORG.
- The PI logs into his/her personal account/profile in TRESS to apply for financial incentives.
- The system automatically retrieves the research outputs' data from the RD and the PI views the current unclaimed ORG outputs and the previously claimed but rejected ones.

- The PI specifies the percentage of annual budget expenditure (75% or above) in the application. The system will then show a link of a document where IFP and TRC can verify the modified expenditure percentage.
- The PI selects ORG outputs to claim for their financial incentives and clicks submit. He/she receives “confirmation of submission” email and the IFP receives “notification of application receipt” email.
- Note: The PI cannot modify his/her application once submission is made.
- The IFP reviews the application and approves/rejects each ORG output one by one, giving justifications for the rejected.
- The IFP clicks submit the completed application once finished evaluating all ORG outputs. He/she then receives “confirmation of submission” email, and Research Area Manager (RAM) at TRC receives “notification of application receipt” email.
- RAM reviews the application and approves/rejects each ORG output one by one, giving justifications for the rejected.
- RAM clicks submit once finishes evaluating all ORG outputs. He/she then receives “confirmation of submission” email, and the Research Administration Director (RAD) at TRC receives “notification of application receipt” email.
- RAD reviews the application and approves/rejects each ORG output one by one, giving justifications for the rejected.

- RAD clicks “submit” once he/she finishes evaluating all ORG outputs. He/she then receives “confirmation of submission” email, and PI and IFP receive “notification of the final decision” email. Justifications of rejected ORG output will be included in the email.



