



Research & Development Division PERIDOT Grant Program

Call for Proposals Guidance

Deadline for Application Submission: **Friday, December 24th, 2021**

I. General Information

A. Project Description:

PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Program providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities. The program is implemented in Pakistan by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Development (MAEDI) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESRI). The objective of this program is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides. The Program, launched in 2014, proceeded its 7 phase till 2021. In last 7th phases four partnerships have been approved.

PERIDOT awardees will be selected competitively using a merit-based, independent, transparent evaluation and selection process based upon international standards. The process is described in the Sections below:

B. Priority Thematic Areas:

This mobility grant is focused on supporting research in any of the identified priority areas/disciplines, including:

- Agricultural Productivity and Food Security, Nutrition
- Health Sciences
- Sustainable Energy
- Innovative Governance and Reforms

C. Anticipated Funding Amount:

- The funding (for mobility) will be shared equally by the HEC and French counterpart.
- The funding for the core research project will be borne by the concerned Pakistani and the French Universities/Institutes.
- HEC and the French counterpart will provide funding only for travel and living expenses to the researchers involved in the projects for visiting Pakistan and France

D. Due Dates

- Last date of application is **Friday, December 24th, 2021**

II. Proposal Preparation Instructions

A. Basic Guidance

All Principal Investigators interested in submitting a proposal for the PERIDOT must find a French collaborator. The French PI after having discussed in details the project with his Pakistani counterpart, will write the application in English language on Campus France platform www.campusfrance.org/fr/peridot. Once the application is finalized, he will share the PDF project with his Pakistani colleague for submission to HEC

The hard copy (01 set) of the same be submitted via surface mail to focal person from Pakistan side and apply online through research.hec.gov.pk

- Maximum one research project can be submitted by one principal investigator for funding.

III. Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicant (PI) must hold a full time faculty position at a public/Private university for research funding.
2. Applicant must hold a PhD Degree (or Equivalent) in relevant field.
3. The major cost of the project will be borne by the participating universities from Pakistan and France.
4. The program will support only mobility of the researchers to and from Pakistan.
5. Mobility of young researchers, especially doctoral students (enrolled under supervision by the PI) is one of the key objective.
6. The host institution must guarantee having the needed capacities (e.g. working space) to accommodate the visiting fellows
7. Project life will be for 03 years.

B. Proposal Formatting

- All Project should use the .docx Project Template Document as the basis for the submission.
- Proposals must be submitted in French & English.
- Proposals should include a Table of Contents.
- The page limit for each section must not be exceeded.
- All pages of the proposal should have a page number.

- Proposals should be submitted in 11 point, Calibri font.
- Tables should be completed in the format and length indicated in the relevant Template document (.docx).
- Proposal sections should not include URLs for additional information. Information or documentation beyond that included in the written proposal will not be used in the evaluation process.
- Proposals should follow internationally accepted academic practice in citing references throughout the proposal. References should be numbered sequentially, and listed separately as a required attachment to the proposal.

IV. Proposal Submission

- The French PI after having discussed in details the project with his Pakistani counterpart, will write the application in English language on Campus France platform www.campusfrance.org/fr/peridot. Once the application is finalized, he will share the PDF project with his Pakistani colleague for submission to HEC, who will apply through HEC online portal for PERIDOT.
- Outlines of French online application version in English can be downloaded in Download section(only for guidance)
- Maximum one research project can be submitted by one principal investigator for funding.

IVa. Format for Proposal Submissions

Principal Investigators must complete each section of the proposal as described in the attached link to the Full Proposal Template .docx Document. The section guidance (in light grey) should be deleted prior to proposal submission.

Web Link for Proposal Application Form: research.hec.gov.pk

V. Evaluation and Selection Process

The selection for PERIDOT awards will be made through an open, rigorous, transparent, competitive and merit-based process consistent with international standards for funding academic research projects. All Proposals, submitted in response to this Call for Proposals, will be scrutinized by HEC, keeping in view the eligibility Criteria of this grant and then evaluated by independent experts in France and Pakistan.

The Evaluation process consists of two sequential steps: Independent Review by at least two Expert Reviewers from Pakistan and Review from Experts in France, followed by a Joint Committee Meeting for sharing the results and selection of Top performers in both

The Reviews.

The expert evaluators will assess each proposal according to a scoring rubric, and will provide written comments on the proposal. Scoring rubrics will be based on following:

- Relevance to the priority areas
- Scientific quality of the proposed research
- Research track and experience of the visiting fellow
- The Principal Investigator's and the host institute's suitability
- Complimentarily of co-applicants (benefit for each co-applicant)
- Potential for long-term collaboration
- Impact on economy & society

Web link for the scoring rubric for Evaluation:

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/peridot/Documents/Evaluation-Rubrics.pdf>

Grievance procedure: In exceptional circumstances, institutions submitting Proposal that was not selected for funding may submit a written Notice of Grievance to the Higher Education Commission within 7 working days of selection results being announced. A Notice of Grievance is permitted only when the institution believes that the proposal was not evaluated fairly or in a reasonable manner.

VI. Project Websites

Full details of this Grant will be available on the Higher Education Commission and Campus France website at:

HEC:

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/peridot/Pages/default.aspx>

France : www.campusfrance.org/fr/peridot

Questions regarding this Grant may be directed to info@hec.gov.pk