



# 2021 Second Call for Research Proposals

**Domains: Health and Infrastructure & Urban Development**

**(15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)**



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## Health and Infrastructure & Urban Development Domains

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The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) invites researchers in the domains of **Health and Infrastructure & Urban Development** to apply to the 2021 Second Call for Research Proposals. The specific areas of research in this call are the result of a recent analysis conducted by KFAS of national priorities and the challenges that lend themselves to focused, interdisciplinary, analytic, empirical, and prescriptive research, with a focus on problem-solving.

Please note the following changes to our call:

- Research proposals with topics that overlap with Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) Strategic Initiatives 2018-2023 will not be considered in the call.
- Basic non-applied research will not be supported unless it is relevant to the focus areas and the applicant is an Early Career Researcher that has received their PhD degree within the last 3 years.
- A budget of up to K.D. 5000 will be supported for applied and basic non-applied research for topics relevant to the focus areas if the applicant is a Young Researcher. We define Young Researchers (YR) as students and scholars who are less than 33 years old.
- Requests for grants to build infrastructure and laboratories are not accepted as part of this call.
- Please read the *KFAS Research Grant Manual* for the new conditions and the size of the funding requested before you submit your application. (<https://www.kfas.org/what-we-offer/scientific-research/research-grants>)
- The proposal must explain clearly how the proposed objectives meets the goals of this call. The proposals should also specify the research methodology and/or experimental design, the anticipated research outcomes, the technical approach to the proposed objectives, and the methods of assessing the outcomes of the research project.
- Wherever relevant, dissemination and capacity-building activities, and data management plans should be clearly stated in the proposal.
- As this call pertains only to national priorities, please choose the National Priority Grant option when you fill out your application online. Maximum accepted duration for executing research project will be 3-years

## 1- FOCUS AREAS

For this call, KFAS seeks to award research grants for highly competitive proposals in specific problem areas in the domains of Health and Infrastructure & Urban Development

### **A. Health Domain**

The research proposals in the health domain should address original and/or new and innovative approaches to practical solutions for national challenges as follows (research proposals with topics that overlap with DDI Strategic Initiatives 2018-2023 will not be considered in the call) :

1. The prevalence of Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in Kuwait, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, etc.
2. The pathophysiological associations of NCDs to other related complications prevalent in Kuwaiti society
3. Health data mapping for Kuwait, including potential structures for the development of a national health data center.
4. The use of digital tools in motivating and tracking compliance with preventive and therapeutic interventions in NCDs.
5. The burden and determinates mental illness, especially in relation to the implications of COVID-19.

### **B. Infrastructure and Urban Development Domain**

The research proposals should address original and new or innovative approaches, leading to practical solutions for the following national challenges:

1. Traffic and road integrated solution studies
2. Walkability in cities
3. Public carparks and public transportation
4. Wastewater and solid waste management
5. New city planning and development.
6. Policy initiatives for ECO-sustainable Housing Topology/Designs

## 2- PRIORITY CRITERIA

In addition to meeting the announced focus area, the following criteria will be used to assign priority in the evaluation of proposals received. Priority will also be given to research proposals that fulfil more of the priority criteria listed in section 1.

- **Local Collaborations:** Collaborative research with local research/academic institutions, as well as private and public sector entities will be prioritized. This includes cross institutional collaborative research teams comprised of individuals from these various local entities within the different sectors listed. Furthermore, letters of support from relevant local entities for the research proposal will also be considered favorably.
- **International Collaborations:** Collaborative research with international academic and research institutions will be prioritized, conditional to a clear commitment from the international institution(s), or from the applicant's home institution, to cover the cost of the international counterpart. This should be supported with a letter of support from the co-funding institution be it the international counterpart or the applicant's home institution.
- **Interdisciplinarity of research team:** Interdisciplinary teams with relevant experience will be prioritized.
- **Engagement of younger scholars:** substantive engagement of young scholars as a part of the research team, be they graduate students and/or early careers up to 3 years post PhD.
- **Commitment to dissemination outputs:** proposals that include plans for publications, public events, international engagements, translation to Arabic, training of scholars, and teaching (undergraduate or graduate students) will be prioritized.

### 3- GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The endorsement of the authorities from the institution on the grant application signifies the following:

- The applicant and the applicant's institute fully agree to comply with KFAS's rules and regulations associated with awarding research funding, including regulations that govern KFAS's Intellectual Property (as defined in the manual),
- The applicant and the institution agree to utilize the funding granted to promote the quality and integrity of the research outcomes.
- The applicant's institute is committed to supporting the applicant and research team in maintaining data confidentiality.
- The applicant's institute is committed to provide an environment that upholds research ethics of transparency, accountability and auditability, as stipulated in the KFAS Code of Research Conduct and in KFAS Guidelines on Authorship for Scientific Publications Resulting from KFAS Funded Research.
- The applicant and research team, as well as the institute, are accountable for compliance with KFAS's defined policies regarding research practice and ethics,
- It is the responsibility of the applicant and the applicant's institute to ensure that they read, understand, and adhere to the application requirements in the following documents which can be accessed and downloaded from the KFAS website from the link below:

<https://www.kfas.org/what-we-offer/scientific-research/research-grants>

- KFAS Research Grant Manual
- Guidelines on Authorship for Scientific Publications Resulting from KFAS Funded Research
- KFAS Code for Research Conduct - KFAS CRC
- Research Capacity Building Guidelines

## 4- REVIEW PROCESS

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by external peer reviewers as follows:

- Proposals with up to KD 5,000 budget will be subject to one external peer review. Maximum of 10 awards will be dedicated for Young Researchers.
- Proposals under KD 10,000 will be subject to one external peer review. Maximum of 10 awards will be given to this category.
- Proposals between KD 10,000 and KD 25,000 will be subject to two external peer reviews. Maximum of 10 awards will be given to this category.
- Proposals between KD 25,000 and KD 50,000 will be subject to three external peer reviews. Maximum of 5 awards will be given to this category.
- The award decisions will be announced on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- All approved research grant awards will be announced on KFAS's website and public and social media.

## 5- APPLICATION PORTAL

All applications must be submitted online through the KFAS Research Grant Management System. If you are new to the portal, start with the following clip for instructions on applying:

[Click here to display the KFAS Research Grant Management System clip](#)

Click below for the application portal and *make sure you choose the National Priority Grant application for this call.*

- <https://grants.kfas.org.kw/>

*KFAS decisions regarding research grants are final and not subject to appeal.*