

Networked Media Research Collaboration Programme

2014 Call for Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the MCMC?

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is the communications and multimedia industry regulator, overseeing the regulatory framework for the converging telecommunications and broadcasting industries and online activities. The MCMC is also entrusted with overseeing the postal service sector pursuant to the Postal Services Act, 1991 and licensing of the Certification Authorities under the Digital Signature Act, 1997. In addition, the MCMC is also one of the Licensing Agencies that issues permits under the Strategic Trade Act, 2010.

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2. Am I eligible to apply?

Research funding is available for registered universities, colleges of higher education and independent research institutes in Malaysia. Details of eligibility are given in the Guide which you should read carefully before applying.

3. When can I apply?

Applications may be submitted only during the stipulated period for submission.

4. What can I apply for?

Grants ranging from RM50,000 to RM200,000 can be made to eligible research organisations to enable individuals or research teams to undertake anything from a standard research project through to a large-scale survey and other infrastructure or methodological development in the area of networked media, and as long as the suggested topic falls within the broad focus areas of the Call for Proposal. Research awards can be made for a period of six months up to three years and can be for basic, applied or strategic research.

5. I have an existing grant and would like to apply for a supplemental grant. Am I eligible?

No, the MCMC will not consider supplementing existing grants.

6. Who are the Evaluation Panel members?

The Evaluation Panel is made up of a Chair and approximately nine members comprising subject specialists including the Programme's steering committee members.

7. If I am requested to present my proposal to the Evaluation Panel, does that mean that my proposal has been shortlisted?

No, it does not. The MCMC may request for a presentation to better evaluate the proposal.

8. I was unsuccessful in applying in a previous round. Are re-submissions accepted?

Yes, re-submission of the same proposal may be made, however, applicant is strongly encouraged to re-apply with a revised or different proposal according to the priority focus areas and so long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

9. I am not sure whether to list someone as a co-researcher or other participant. What is the difference?

The programme requires a researcher to be the designated Lead Researcher for the project, appointed by the university to be in charge of the research and its research team and also, will liaise with the MCMC with regard to the research. A collaborative partner may be a co-researcher from the same institution or another institution and actively associated with the project.

10. Can funds be re-budgeted between budget categories?

Yes, this may be done without the necessity of obtaining the prior written permission of the MCMC. However, the transfer of budget between heads of expenditure which, in respect of a particular head of expenditure, cannot exceed twenty (20%) percent of the total shown in the budget for that head of expenditure which receives the transfer of budget.

11. Is it advisable to include preliminary data?

We do not have specific guidelines on this. We recommend adding it only if the proposer thinks it will give additional strength to the proposal.

12. How will I know if my application has been successful?

The majority of applicants will be notified within two months after the closing date for submissions.

13. How long does it take to implement the agreement?

The average time taken for the finalisation of documentation is two months. The time taken will be largely determined by the speed with which all parties respond. The lead researcher may be asked to liaise with the relevant parties to expedite the process if necessary.

14. Are the grant contracts transferable across Institutions?

It is not possible to transfer the grant across Institutions. The selection of proposals is focused on a combination of three criteria: based on the excellence of the institution, the academic excellence of the candidate and the project. If one of the criteria is changed, then the grant is no longer valid.

15. What happens at the end of my award period, and if not all the funds have been used. Is it possible to extend the agreement?

No, it is not allowed to extend the agreement if the project has been completed. All unutilised funds are to be returned to the MCMC and formal reports have to be submitted. The reporting responsibilities are explained under the Project Implementation and Monitoring section of the Guide.