

APPENDIX G

Frequently Asked Questions

General

S/N	Question	Response
Application		
1	What is “use-inspired basic research”?	The research undertaken is inspired by the quest to advance fundamental scientific knowledge and understanding that is motivated by an unmet need or to address a practical problem. The research need not necessarily lead to immediate translation or commercialisation within the duration of the project.
2	Does CRP fund blue-sky or curiosity-driven research?	CRP does not fund research that is solely blue-sky or curiosity driven. The research objective should be motivated or inspired by a problem to be solved or a potential use.
3	How important is industrial participation for the different CRP categories? Is it mandatory to include industrial partner(s)?	Industry partnership is not a requirement for CRP. It is not mandatory to include industrial partner(s). If industrial partner(s) are involved, they should provide letters of support with details of their contribution and/or commitment to the project.
4	Is stakeholder agency consultation required prior to submission?	This is not a mandatory requirement.
5	Can a PI submit multiple proposals under the same CRP category as the Lead PI at the same time?	Yes, if the proposals are substantially different and there are no overlaps in the scope of the work to be funded.
6	Can the Lead and Team PI be from the same group?	Yes.
7	If a PI has submitted a proposal in another funding scheme which is pending review, can he/she still apply for CRP?	The PI should not submit the same proposal (which is pending review in another funding scheme) to CRP. He/she can submit a different proposal (with no overlaps in scope) to CRP.
8	Can the CRP scheme accept proposals with humanities or social sciences elements?	Yes, humanities and social sciences elements can be included in the proposals. However, the proposals should have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) focus.
9	Is there a limit for CRP resubmission?	Proposals that have not been shortlisted for award are generally permitted only one resubmission in

		future grant calls, with amendments to address review feedback.
Eligibility Criteria		
10	Are early career scientists (e.g. post-docs) eligible to be Lead or Team PIs? How do we determine if a PI meets the criteria of a Lead or Team PI?	We will leave it to the Institutions to endorse your qualification as either a Lead or Team PI, as there are institutional differences in designations, ranks, roles and responsibilities. Institutions should read the Eligibility Criteria and ensure applicants meet the requirements.
11	Can a Team PI come from industry or overseas?	The Industry or Overseas PI must hold an adjunct position with a publicly funded institution in Singapore and serve residency in Singapore for at least 9 calendar months per year. PIs who do not fulfil eligibility criteria as Team PI can participate as collaborators.
Assessment		
12	What is the expected TRL of CRP projects at completion?	The CRP scheme supports basic research which typically starts at TRL 1-3 and may end at TRL 3-5 upon completion.
13	What are the outcomes or Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) expected of CRP projects?	CRP projects will be assessed on the extent they have achieved their scientific deliverables (stated in their proposal) and how they have advanced fundamental scientific knowledge. A good metric of successful research outcomes is the continuity of the research, and whether teams go on to secure larger grant funding, or contribute to establishing peaks of research excellence in Singapore. As part of annual progress reports, NRF may request projects to report indicators such as publications, technical disclosures or patents etc for tracking purposes, but projects are <u>not</u> expected to provide targets for these indicators and will not be assessed solely based on these.
14	What kind of feedback will be given for non-shortlisted proposals?	A comprehensive reviewer report will be provided for reference, for each non-shortlisted proposal. For proposals that are rejected without review, NRF will provide reasons for rejection (e.g. if the proposed research falls outside the scope of CRP).

Budget		
15	Can international collaborators receive funding for some elements of the research?	Applicants may propose OOE budget lines for Visiting Professors/Experts, which can cover honorarium, travel and accommodation expenses. Visiting Professors/Experts should be clearly identified in the proposal, or to NRF, with justifications for visits provided.
16	Does all the funding have to be spent within Singapore?	<p>RIE funding is intended to fund research activity conducted by the Team (Lead PI and Team PIs) within Singapore.</p> <p>Applicants may propose budget items under Overseas travel, e.g. attending overseas conferences or to access equipment/facilities overseas with justifications provided, excluding the conduct of R&D activity.</p>
17	Can the CRP grant support: a) Salaries of Lead and Team PIs? b) Hiring of management support officers (MSO)? c) Hiring of Project/Programme Manager? d) Subscription of GPU and cloud services?	<p>(a) No, as Lead and Team PIs are already salaried by the Institution.</p> <p>(b) CRP does not support salaries of administrative staff, including MSOs.</p> <p>(c) Yes, if the Programme Manager's role is related to the Research, and not purely administrative.</p> <p>(d) Yes, applicants may propose OOE budget lines to support facilities usage, and subscription of services such as GPU and cloud usage.</p> <p>Please refer to the list of non-fundable direct costs in the Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants that is issued to the Host Institutions.</p>
18	Do all CRP categories provide indirect costs?	Yes, the indirect cost is 30% of the direct cost.
Areas out of scope for CRP		
19	It is stated in the Grant Call information sheet that CRP is not intended to support research in the following areas: (i) epidemiological and behavioural studies; (ii) observational studies (including cohort, longitudinal, case-control studies, etc.); (iii) clinical and drug trials;	<p>Proposals with a research focus in the areas listed should be submitted to other more appropriate funding schemes in Singapore, for funding consideration.</p> <p>CRP proposals should be primarily driven by basic scientific discovery and advancement of scientific knowledge that is use-inspired, and should have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) focus.</p>

	<p>(iv) health services research/operations research;</p> <p>(v) infrastructure/facilities set-up; and</p> <p>(vi) market/drugs/product development.</p> <p>Can elements of the above be incorporated in CRP proposals?</p>	Some elements of research in the areas listed can still be incorporated in CRP proposals but should not form the sole or main objectives of the proposal, and their inclusion will need to be well justified.
Others		
20	Where can the list of past awarded projects be found?	Please refer to the NRF CRP website: https://www.nrf.gov.sg/grants/crp/

CRP Application

S/N	Question	Response
21	Is CRP intended to only fund large scale programmes?	The CRP supports programmes of varying sizes between a period of 3 to 5 years. It can fund small-scale programmes submitted by a smaller group of PIs, with a correspondingly smaller funding quantum that corresponds to the scope of the work to be accomplished. The proposals will be evaluated based on scientific merit.
22	For Stage 1 review, will only the video & slides be evaluated, and not the full proposal?	Yes, only the video & slides will be evaluated at Stage 1.
23	<p>Is there any action required from the team if a proposal is shortlisted to Stage 2?</p> <p>Can the team amend/improve the full proposal if it is shortlisted to Stage 2?</p>	<p>No action is required from the applicants. Eligible CRP Full Proposals will be sent for review, following the announcement of the Stage 1 shortlisting outcome.</p> <p>Applicants are not allowed to amend the Full Proposal after submission. NRF may consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis if there are strong justifications.</p>
24	How much preliminary data is expected for a CRP proposal?	Inclusion of preliminary data is encouraged but is <u>not</u> mandatory for a CRP proposal submission.
25	How will CRP proposals be reviewed? Will there be nominated external reviewers?	CRP proposals will be reviewed by a CRP Evaluation Panel comprised of international researchers/ academics. Reviews may be supplemented by independent reviewers who possess relevant subject-matter expertise.