

SINGAPORE FOOD STORY (SFS) R&D PROGRAMME 2.0
‘SEED’ GRANT
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

KEY DATES

1. When will the ‘Seed’ grant be launched?

The ‘Seed’ grant will be launched on 2 October 2023, 1200hrs, Singapore time (UTC +8:00). Proposals will continue to be accepted on a **rolling basis**, with the grant application window closing by 30 September 2025.

2. When can applicants expect research proposals to be awarded?

Proposals are expected to be awarded within 6-8 months upon complete submission.

HOW TO APPLY

3. How can I participate in the ‘Seed’ grant?

All applications have to be submitted on-line via the Integrated Grants Management System (IGMS) and endorsed by the host institution’s Director of Research or equivalent in order to be eligible. Separate submissions outside of IGMS will not be considered.

4. I am new to IGMS. How can I register/create an account?

To access IGMS, entities are required to set up a CorpPass.

Only one CorpPass is required for each entity. To start setting up CorpPass, each entity is required to appoint up to Two CorpPass Administrators. The CorpPass Administrator can create other CorpPass accounts, including managing users' access to digital services (e.g. IGMS).

Accounts created by the CorpPass Administrator need to be activated in order to start transacting on behalf of the entity, by setting up CorpPass IDs and passwords.

More information on setting up CorpPass can be found via the following link:
<https://www.corppass.gov.sg/corppass/common/userguides>

ELIGIBILITY

5. Who is eligible to participate?

Principal Investigators (PI) from all Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies and not-for profit research laboratories as well as

companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions, are eligible to apply.

6. Can the lead PI be non-local?

Yes, but the Lead PI who leads the research must be based in Singapore¹. Collaboration with foreign organisations and experts in the capacity of Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), or as Collaborator is allowed.

7. Can the research be conducted overseas?

The lead PI must be based in Singapore. All funding awarded must be used to carry out the research and innovation activities in Singapore unless approved in the grant.

8. Are local/international collaborations allowed?

The Institutions may engage in research collaborations with local or overseas collaborators/enterprises. Such collaborations are strongly encouraged to translate the research to improve local production. Contracting out the whole or substantial part of the research work is not permitted.

Local enterprises are defined as companies registered in Singapore with at least 30% local shareholding.

FUNDING

9. Is there a cap to the amount of research funding awarded for each research proposal?

Funding support for each Research Proposal awarded shall be up to a quantum of up to **S\$1 million** for a **period of up to 18 months**. Proposals with a funding quantum and/or project length that exceed(s) these limits may be considered. Strong justifications will be required.

10. Are collaborators permitted to receive funding?

Collaborators are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired using the funding or otherwise. All assets acquired using the funding must be located in Singapore and maintained within the control of the Institutions.

11. What is the funding support level?

Singapore-based IHLs, public sector agencies will qualify for up to 100 percent of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project.

¹ Lead PIs must have a minimum of 9 months employment with a Singapore-based organisation (Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies, not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions), and fulfilling at least 6 months of residency in Singapore over a period of 1 calendar year.

Funding for private sector entities for research projects would be conditional on collaboration with a public research performer.

Tiered funding support levels would apply (up to 30% for all non-Singaporean entities; 50% for Singaporean Large Local Enterprises; 70% for Singaporean Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, start-ups and not-for-profits).

Support for indirect costs of research may be provided, only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. Funding support for indirect costs of up to 30 percent of the total qualifying approved direct costs (i.e., total direct costs less exceptional items) will be allowed. This is subject to approval from SFA.

12. Will proposals that do not cover research under the targeted areas be funded?

No.

13. Will proposals need to adhere to the Terms and Conditions for Competitive Grants?

Yes.

14. What are the items that will / will not be funded under the SFS R&D Programme?

Please refer to Appendix I of the Grant Call Information Sheet.

15. Are indirect / overhead costs supported?

Yes, but only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. This will be capped at up to 30% of the total qualifying direct costs and subject to SFA's approval. Examples of indirect cost include rental, utilities, facilities management, telephone charges, internet charges, etc.

16. What is the mechanism for fund disbursement?

Fund disbursement will be via reimbursement, on a quarterly basis.

OTHERS

17. Who to enquire for further information?

All enquiries can be directed to: SFA_RND@sfa.gov.sg