
**Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi
Foundation for Policy Research**

Competitive Grants & Scholarships Handbook

**Information for Applicants
and Recipients**

Last Updated December 2017





Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook outlines the expectations and responsibilities grant and scholarship recipients assume when accepting awards from the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research. Some sections are also relevant for those who join the Foundation as interns. The handbook seeks to provide helpful information and highlight key policies and procedures to make the award experience as well as time spent in Ras Al Khaimah both productive and enjoyable.

For more information or questions related to the competitive grants and scholarships discussed in this handbook, please contact the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research:

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1 | Overview of Grant & Scholarship Opportunities

The Foundation offers numerous international and local funding opportunities to promote research, professional development, and community-based collaborations in Ras Al Khaimah. The eligibility, application materials, and award inclusions for each type of funding opportunity are summarized in this section. Additional information on each award can also be found on the Foundation's website.

International Competitive Grants

- 1.1 Doctoral Research Grants
- 1.2 Faculty Research Grants
- 1.3 Seed Grants
- 1.4 Documentary Film Grants

Local Grants & Scholarships

- 1.5 School Grants
- 1.6 Teacher Scholarships
- 1.7 Health Practitioner Scholarships

It is expected that all applicants will clearly demonstrate how their proposed research, project, or professional development request will benefit Ras Al Khaimah and relate to the Foundation's priority areas (Education, Arts & Culture, Philanthropy, Community Development, Public Health). The Foundation realizes the application process can be time consuming, and is willing to provide general feedback on the eligibility, relevance, or strength of potential submissions or in-progress applications. Such inquiries should be sent to grants@alqasimifoundation.rak.ae.

In addition, the Foundation offers scholarship support for Emirati nationals to study overseas at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Please see *Policies and Procedures Manual for the Sheikh Saqr Overseas Scholarship Program* for more details and guidelines associated with this opportunity.



1.1 Doctoral Research Grants

Eligibility: Current PhD student at an accredited university in good academic standing. American programs: all coursework must be completed and preliminary exams successfully passed. British or European programs: minimum one year completed and extensive literature review with solid methodology and research proposal. Proposed research must include Ras Al Khaimah as a significant site of data collection and analysis.

Application Process: Annual deadline March 1. Complete application includes: online form, cover letter, CV or resume, academic transcripts, research proposal, two recommendation letters, English proficiency (as applicable), confirmation of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

Grant Inclusions: International Applicants: Round-trip economy airfare from country of origin (maximum 10,000 AED), up to 12-months accommodation, pro-rated monthly living stipend (2,000 AED per month, maximum 24,000 AED total), visa costs (maximum 1,000 AED), research support, office space.

UAE Applicants: Same as international applicants pending scholar needs. Up to 35,000 AED can be allocated to direct research expenses.

1.2 Faculty Research Grants

Grant Eligibility: Current faculty member at an accredited university with a PhD or other professional terminal degree. Proposed research must include Ras Al Khaimah as a significant site of data collection and analysis.

Application Process: Annual deadline March 1. Complete application includes: online form, cover letter, academic CV, research proposal, detailed budget, department or institution letter of support, recommendation from academic colleague, English proficiency (as applicable), confirmation of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

Grant Inclusions: International Applicants: Round-trip economy airfare from country of origin (maximum 10,000 AED), up to 2-months accommodation, pro-rated monthly living stipend (6,000 AED per month, maximum 12,000 AED total), car rental (2,500 AED per month, maximum 5,000 AED total) visa costs (maximum 1,000 AED), research costs (maximum 5,000 AED), research support, office space.

UAE Applicants: Same as international applicants pending scholar needs. Up to 35,000 AED can be allocated to direct research expenses.



1.3 Seed Grants

Grant Eligibility: Demonstrated collaboration between at least two organizations, one of which must be located in the UAE.¹ Proposed research or project must have direct benefit to Ras Al Khaimah.

Application Process: Annual deadline March 1. Complete application includes: online form, cover letter, academic CV or resume for project leader(s), detailed research or project proposal with timeline and deliverables, itemized budget demonstrating contributions of all key partners (in-kind or financial), letter(s) of support/participation from UAE partner(s), letter of recommendation, confirmation of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (research-based grants only).

Grant Inclusions: Maximum 50,000 AED award to cover direct, project-related expenses based on detailed budget. Permissible expenditures include equipment purchases, travel to and within the UAE, local accommodation, translation, event hosting, printed materials, etc.

1.4 Documentary Film Grants

Grant Eligibility: Young directors and media professionals from all nationalities wanting to create short Arabic/English bilingual films (30 minutes or less) on topics relevant to the United Arab Emirates and Gulf region. Directors should have film making or media studies backgrounds and may be current university students (minimum two years of academic program completed) or recent BA or MA graduates (within last five years). Directors must also have screened at least one film at a film festival in the UAE, Gulf region, or overseas. Priority is given to Emirati applicants.

Application Process: Annual deadline June 30. Complete application includes: cover letter, director's CV and names/roles of others involved in the project, detailed storyboard, itemized budget, timeline with deliverable milestones, list of film locations and associated permissions, letter of recommendation, two film samples on DVD. Finalists will be required to attend an interview.

Grant Inclusions: Maximum 25,000 AED to cover production-related activities as outlined in the detailed budget. Examples of acceptable production-related expenses include: location and equipment rentals (e.g. studio time, lighting, sound equipment), make-up, costumes, props, commission or purchase of music soundtracks, editing or animation software, and Arabic/English translation and subtitles.

¹ Applicants should contact intended UAE-based partner(s) prior to submission to secure their support and participation. Exceptions may be made when the Foundation is well-positioned to facilitate introductions and access. Such exceptions require communication and approval from the Foundation's Grant Manager prior to the annual deadline (see Section 13).



1.5 School Grants

Grant Eligibility: Ras Al Khaimah government schools or the Ras Al Khaimah Ministry of Education.^{2,3} Although projects should be approached as a team, a leader must be identified to serve as the main point of contact. The project leader may be any nationality and should have at least three years professional experience and been in the applicant school for at least one academic year.

Application Process: Applications considered on a rolling basis pending budget availability. Complete application includes: application form, CV or resume of project leader, letter of support, price quotations (if applicable). An in-person meeting with Foundation is also required once all application materials are submitted.

Grant Inclusions: Maximum 10,000 AED for individual schools to undertake special projects or pilot new initiatives that seek to improve the school environment, enhance student learning, and foster an overall positive student experience.

1.6 Teacher Scholarships

Scholarship Eligibility: Educators from all nationalities working in Ras Al Khaimah government schools or the Ras Al Khaimah Ministry of Education wanting to pursue professional development opportunities in the UAE. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and a minimum of three years professional experience. They should also have taken at least two professional development courses through the Foundation, one of which must be related to research if they are applying for an Action Research scholarship. Priority is given to Emirati applicants.

Application Process: Annual deadline for Academic Programs is June 30. Applications for short courses and action research projects considered on a rolling basis pending budget availability. Requirements for a complete application vary based on the type of scholarship being sought:

Academic Programs & Short Courses – personal statement, CV or resume, academic transcripts and tertiary education certificates, qualification acceptance letter, documentation of total qualification costs, confirmation applicant can pay 50% of qualification's costs, two recommendation letters, English proficiency (Academic Programs only; valid within last two years).⁴

² Schools that received previous grant funding must wait two years before becoming eligible for new School Grants.

³ Other locally-based organizations and government entities with education-related projects are encouraged to contact the Foundation to discuss their ideas, as they may be deemed eligible for funding based on the discretion of Foundation management and budget availability.

⁴ Applicants are fully responsible for securing their own acceptance from an accredited university or institution in the United Arab Emirates for their chosen qualification. They must also maintain their teaching commitments throughout the scholarship Award Period. Based on this, qualification timetables should not interfere with professional responsibilities.



Action Research – cover letter, preliminary research proposal, itemized budget, CV or resume for all project team members, documentation of school and Ministry of Education approval, documentation confirming one team member has taken a research course, two letters of recommendation.

Scholarship Inclusions: *Academic Programs & Short Courses* - Up to 50% of the tuition costs associated with an accredited master's degree (maximum 30,000 AED) or short-term course (up to three-months duration; maximum 15,000 AED). Qualifications must be in education or closely related to education and should seek to improve the applicant's teaching abilities and effectiveness in the classroom.

Action Research - Maximum 10,000 AED to undertake a small-scale, action research project in applicant's classroom or school. The projects should address an identified need related to improving teaching or enhancing student learning, and the research may be carried out by an individual or small group of teachers.

1.7 Health Practitioner Scholarships

Scholarship Eligibility: Nurses and other support-level practitioners from all nationalities working in Ras Al Khaimah healthcare settings or the Ministry of Health wanting to pursue professional development opportunities in the UAE. Applicants must have a UAE-recognized healthcare qualification and a minimum of three years professional experience. Priority is given to Emirati applicants.

Application Process: Annual deadline for Academic Programs is June 30. Applications for short courses considered on a rolling basis pending budget availability. Complete application includes: personal statement, CV or resume, academic transcripts and tertiary education certificates, qualification acceptance letter, documentation of total qualification costs, confirmation applicant can pay 50% of qualification's costs, two recommendation letters, English proficiency (Academic Programs only; valid within last two years).⁵

Scholarship Inclusions: Up to 50% of the tuition costs associated with either an accredited master's or other postgraduate qualification (maximum 25,000 AED) or short-term course (up to three-months duration; maximum 10,000 AED). Qualifications must be in healthcare field and should seek to improve the applicant's professional capacity in delivering high-quality patient care or public health policies.

⁵ Applicants are fully responsible for securing their own acceptance from an accredited university or institution in the United Arab Emirates for their chosen qualification. They must also maintain their professional commitments throughout the scholarship Award Period. Based on this, qualification timetables should not interfere with professional responsibilities.



2| English Language Proficiency Requirements

Applicants who learned English as a secondary language are required to submit documentation demonstrating their English proficiency for research grants and academic program scholarships. Documentation includes:

1. Writing samples relevant to application requirements, such as:
 - Cover letter
 - Statement of purpose
 - Research proposal
 - Academic papers
2. Copies of official TOEFL or IELTS score reports valid within the last two years. Minimum scores (overall and in each sub area) expected on such certified English assessments:
 - Doctoral Research Grants: 85 TOEFL iBT or 6.5 IELTS
 - Teacher Scholarships (Academic Master's): 55 TOEFL iBT or 5.5 IELTS (or the minimum for gaining unconditional admission, whichever is higher)

Exceptions to the certified assessment requirements may be made for applicants who have studied or worked extensively in academic English environments. Such exceptions are at the discretion of the Foundation's management (see Section 13) and should be sought before applying. The Foundation may also consider certified English assessments beyond IELTS or TOEFL on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants who have not taken a certified English assessment (or whose scores are older than two years) may still apply for grant and scholarship opportunities. However, any offers of funding may be conditional on providing an official score report within a designated period of time.



3 | Research Ethics & Professional Conduct

Given the nature of the Foundation’s social science and policy research efforts, all award recipients who will be conducting research are required to gain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval from their home institution and present documentation of this approval to the Foundation.

- If recipients’ home institutions do not have an IRB process, they must complete individual research ethics training through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) at the University of Miami: www.citiprogram.org.⁶
- Recipients are responsible for covering all costs associated with the CITI training *Basic IRB Course – Social-Behavioral-Educational Focus* (around \$100 USD).
- Recipients must complete all modules associated with the CITI course and provide the Foundation a copy of their completion certificate, which will be added to their award file.
- Individuals who have previously had IRB human subjects training may be exempt from taking the CITI course if they can provide relevant documentation. Generally, such training should have taken place within the last two years. Questions as to whether previous training may substitute for the CITI IRB program should be discussed with the Foundation’s Grant Manager.

Beyond formal IRB considerations, all award recipients are expected to consistently observe the highest standards of integrity, honesty and fair dealings when engaging with Foundation staff, stakeholders, and other collaborators. They should also abide by UAE laws and demonstrate sensitivity to local cultural norms.

- Foundation staff members are diverse as is the local community in which the Foundation is based. Recipients are expected to treat colleagues with courtesy and respect and to interact with Foundation stakeholders in a professional manner at all times.
- The Foundation requires recipients to follow academic standards for citing published or online material, including the research of others. Recipients should not submit or publish—in any form—the words, ideas, phrases, citations, arguments or artistic/technical work of another person as their own creation. Plagiarism is taken seriously and may result in cancellation and/or repayment of the grant award (see Section 11).
- Award recipients should ensure blog and social media posts are respectful, especially in light of local defamation laws. Comments that may be deemed harassing or racially or sexually offensive will not be tolerated. In addition, posts that insult the Foundation, other government and public organizations, or which may otherwise reflect negatively on Ras Al Khaimah, the UAE, or its citizens may result in disciplinary measures, including cancellation of the grant award (see Section 11).

⁶ Action Research Teacher Scholarship recipients do not need to take the CITI training. However, at least one member of the research team (preferably the lead investigator) should have completed a research course through the Foundation’s teacher professional development program.



4 | Application Review & Award Decisions

This section details the process and criteria used for determining awards for the Foundation's various funding opportunities. The Grant Manager is responsible for coordinating application reviews and communicating award decisions.

- 4.1 Competitive International Research Grants
- 4.2 Documentary Film Grants
- 4.3 Local Grants & Scholarships

4.1 Competitive International Research Grants

Doctoral Research, Faculty Research, and Seed Grants are all considered competitive international awards and are collectively reviewed using the same process and criteria. The annual deadline for all three grant programs is March 1 and late applications or those received at other times of the year are generally not considered.

Review & Awards Process

- Once the annual March 1 deadline passes, the Grant Manager conducts a preliminary review to check for completeness and ensure applications meet associated eligibility requirements. Applicants are generally given an opportunity to submit any missing materials by a stated deadline. Complete proposals that pass this initial check then enter the formal review process for funding consideration.
- The Foundation leverages its research network and uses academic peer-review for evaluating grant proposals. Complete proposals are matched with external reviewers who have relevant expertise and can knowledgeably comment on a proposal's content, methodologies, and overall merits using the Foundation's established criteria and scoring instructions. In addition, members of the Foundation's research department and management review all proposals using the same instructions to evaluate submissions within the context of the overall applicant pool.
- Scores and feedback are compiled to make formal decisions on each proposal. Inclusions and exceptions for all extended offers are noted during this process.
 - Applicants receive one of three possible responses on their proposal:
 - No Award – applicants are informed their proposals were unsuccessful and provided feedback from the reviewers as relevant.
 - Conditional Award – applicants are offered funding assuming they address issues identified during the review process.⁷
 - Unconditional Award – applicants are offered funding based on their proposals as submitted.

⁷ Conditional offers may be made for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to): outstanding IRB requirement; outstanding English proficiency exam; unconfirmed collaborators; budget or proposal adjustments. Any exceptions, changes, or other actions required are outlined in the conditional award offer and built into the grant agreement as appropriate.



- The Foundation prioritizes awards based on proposal strength regardless of which grant an applicant applied for. Accordingly, the annually available funding can be redistributed across the three grant programs depending on the number and quality of applications received each year. Similarly, a portion of the annual budget may go unused if only a few proposals are deemed high-quality and worthy of funding.
- The Foundation generally awards only one grant to an organization, even if multiple proposals are received from different individuals. Exceptions can be made if there are two equally strong and compelling proposals considering the overall applicant pool. More flexibility can be shown on awards for doctoral applicants coming from the same institution assuming the individual proposals are strong and address different topics.
- The entire review process typically takes 6-8 weeks and applicants are informed of the award decisions by the end of April or early May. The Grant Manager is responsible for notifying and securing award acceptances, including working with recipients to finalize the terms of their grants.

Scoring & Evaluation Criteria

Complete proposals are evaluated using five overarching criteria that form the base for making award decisions. The five criteria sub-scores are then added together to form a reviewer's overall evaluation score:

1. **Scholarly (or Professional) Record:** This criterion addresses the professional qualifications of individual or organizational applicants.
2. **Proposal Relevance & Significance:** This criterion addresses whether proposed projects are relevant to the Foundation's work and needs of Ras Al Khaimah.
3. **Research (or Project) Practicality:** This criterion addresses whether projects are likely to succeed and whether applicants have realistic understandings of the local context.
4. **Budget & Resource Needs:** This criterion addresses applicant expectations of the Foundation's financial and in-kind support for implementing proposed projects.
5. **Partnership Potential:** This criterion addresses the role projects can play in building the Foundation's strategic partnerships and developing the capacity of local researchers and institutions. While important, this criterion is secondary to the others and can help finalize award decisions among equally strong proposals.

To accompany their overall evaluation scores, reviewers also provide their personal opinions on whether individual proposals should be considered for award funding. Reviewers are encouraged to make any notes they deem necessary to support their ratings or award recommendations. The Grant Manager prepares an overall review summary on each proposal to facilitate the final award decisions.



4.2 Documentary Film Grants

Film Grants are competitive and annually reviewed after the June 30 deadline. Late applications or those received at other times of the year are generally not considered.

Review & Awards Process

- Once the annual June 30 deadline passes, the Arts & Culture Department conducts a preliminary review to check for completeness and ensure applications meet associated eligibility requirements. Applicants are generally given an opportunity to submit any missing materials by a stated deadline. Complete proposals that pass this initial check then enter the formal review process for funding consideration.
- The Foundation leverages its network to engage film industry professionals in its review process. These external reviewers provide feedback using the Foundation's established criteria and scoring instructions. In addition, members of the Foundation's Arts & Culture Department and management review all submitted proposals using the same criteria and scoring instructions to evaluate submissions within the context of the overall applicant pool.
- Reviewer scores and feedback are compiled; applicants with the highest scoring proposals are invited to an interview, which factors into final funding decisions. Inclusions and exceptions for all extended offers are noted during this process.
 - Applicants receive one of three possible responses on their proposal:
 - No Award – applicants are informed their proposals were unsuccessful and provided feedback from the reviewers as relevant.
 - Conditional Award – applicants are offered funding assuming they address issues identified during the review process.⁸
 - Unconditional Award – applicants are offered funding based on their proposals as submitted.
 - The Foundation prioritizes awards based on proposal strength. Accordingly, a portion of the annual budget may go unused if only a few proposals are deemed high-quality and worthy of funding.
 - The Foundation generally awards only one grant to an organization, even if multiple proposals are received from different individuals. Exceptions can be made if there are two equally strong and compelling proposals considering the overall applicant pool.
- The entire review process typically takes 6-8 weeks and applicants are informed of the award decisions by the end of August or early September. The Arts & Culture Department is responsible for notifying and securing award acceptances. The Foundation's Grant Manager then works with recipients to finalize the terms of their awards.

⁸ Conditional offers may be made for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to): adjustments to storyboard concept, production schedule, or budget; confirmation of additional funding. Exceptions, changes, or other actions required of the applicant would be outlined in the conditional award offer and built into the grant agreement as appropriate.



Scoring & Evaluation Criteria

Complete proposals are evaluated using five overarching criteria that form the base for making awards decisions. The five criteria sub-scores are then added together to form a reviewer's overall evaluation score:

1. **Directorial Record:** This criterion addresses the professional qualifications of individual or organizational applicants, including a review of their past work.
2. **Storyboard Concept:** This criterion addresses the degree to which proposed projects highlight topics relevant to the United Arab Emirates and Gulf region and the cohesiveness of the story's development at the time of application.
3. **Creativity:** This criterion addresses the creative decision-making aspects of the film's production.
4. **Film Practicality:** This criterion addresses whether projects are likely to succeed and whether applicants have realistic understandings of the local context and production timelines.
5. **Budget & Resource Needs:** This criterion addresses applicant expectations of the Foundation's financial and in-kind support for implementing proposed projects.

To accompany their overall evaluation scores, reviewers also provide their personal opinions on whether individual proposals should be considered for award funding. Reviewers are encouraged to make any notes they deem necessary to support their ratings or award recommendations. The Arts & Culture Department prepares an overall review summary on each proposal to facilitate the final award decisions.

4.3 Local Grants & Scholarships

School Grants, Teacher Scholarships, and Health Practitioner Scholarships are all considered local awards and are collectively reviewed using the same process and criteria. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year pending budget availability.

Review & Awards Process

- The Grant Manager conducts a preliminary review to check for completeness and ensure applications meet associated eligibility requirements. Applicants are generally given an opportunity to submit any missing materials by a stated deadline. Complete applications that pass this initial check then enter the formal review process for funding consideration.
- Local scholarships are reviewed by staff from the Capacity Development Department and management team based on the Foundation's established criteria and scoring instructions.
- Scores and feedback are compiled to make formal decisions on each application. Inclusions and exceptions for all extended offers are noted during this process.



- Applicants receive one of three possible responses on their applications:
 - No Award – applicants are informed their requests were unsuccessful and provided feedback from the reviewers as relevant.
 - Conditional Award – applicants are offered funding assuming they address issues identified during the review process.⁹
 - Unconditional Award – applicants are offered funding based on their proposals as submitted.
- The Foundation prioritizes awards based on application strength regardless of which grant or scholarship an applicant applied for. Accordingly, the annually available budget can be redistributed across local grant and scholarship programs depending on the number and quality of applications received each year. Similarly, a portion of the annual budget may go unused if only a few proposals are deemed worthy of funding.
- The Foundation generally prioritizes awarding new schools or individuals, so it is unlikely previous recipients will receive a second award. Exceptions can be considered for exceptionally strong applicants pending availability of funds and passage of time since the last award.
- The entire review process typically takes 2-4 weeks and applicants are informed of the award decisions shortly thereafter. The Grant Manager works with Capacity Development Department staff as needed to notify and secure award acceptances, including working with recipients to finalize the terms of their scholarships or grants.

Scoring & Evaluation Criteria

Complete applications are evaluated using five overarching criteria that form the base for making awards decisions. The five criteria sub-scores are then added together to form a reviewer's overall evaluation score:

1. **Professional Record:** This criterion addresses the professional qualifications of individual scholarship applicants or the profile and current initiatives of organizational applicants.
2. **Relevance & Significance:** This criterion addresses whether the proposed qualification or school project is relevant to the Foundation's priorities and will benefit Ras Al Khaimah.
3. **Preparation:** This criterion addresses whether applicants have realistic expectations and the necessary capacity to ensure successful completion of the chosen qualification or project.
4. **Budget & Resource Needs:** This criterion addresses applicant expectations of the Foundation's financial and in-kind support for undertaking the chosen qualification or proposed project, including their ability to fund costs beyond those covered by the Foundation.

⁹ Conditional offers may be made for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to): outstanding English proficiency exam; outstanding course acceptance; budget or proposal adjustments. Any exceptions, changes, or other actions required are outlined in the conditional award offer and built into the scholarship or grant agreement as appropriate.



5. **Relationship with the Foundation:** This criterion addresses applicants' involvement with the Foundation to date (e.g. professional development courses, event attendance). While important, this criterion is secondary to the others and can help finalize award decisions among equally strong applications.

To accompany their overall evaluation scores, reviewers also provide their personal opinions on whether individual proposals should be considered for award funding. Reviewers are encouraged to make any notes they deem necessary to support their ratings or award recommendations. The Grant Manager prepares an overall review summary on each proposal to facilitate the final award decisions.



5| Award Details & Exclusions

Inclusions, deliverables, and exceptions associated with successful grant applications will be documented in a formal Award Contract signed by the award recipient(s) and Foundation. This includes identifying the party responsible for administration of award funds and ownership details for any equipment purchased as part of an award. Award Contracts are also used to outline the terms and conditions of scholarships. Original Award Contracts are added to the award files and copies are provided to recipients for their records.

Foundation grant awards are modest compared to funding opportunities offered through other local and international entities. In order to maximize the strategic impact of the Foundation's funding, the following items are excluded from award coverage:

General Exclusions

- University overhead expenses or other indirect cost recoveries
- Salaries or stipends for faculty, researcher, or project leader time
- University tuition or fees (Doctoral Grants)
- Business class air tickets
- Conference attendance to present research results
- Journal processing fees

In addition, reviewer feedback may question inclusion of the items below. It is therefore important for applicants to demonstrate why such items are required for a project's successful implementation and note when they do not have access to such items through their university or organization:

Case-by-Case Exclusions

- Technology or software purchases
- Journal subscriptions for literature reviews
- Equipment rentals and purchases
- Research or project participant gifts
- External consultants or experts



6 | Award Payments & Reimbursements

The Foundation remains responsible for administering grant and scholarship funds since most award expenditures are incurred in the UAE. The Foundation will not transfer funds to an award recipient's home institution for management, as this often results in currency exchange fees, raises potential for conflicting organizational policies, and complicates record keeping for external audits.

- Depending on grant or scholarship inclusions outlined in the Award Contract, the Foundation will distribute funds as:
 - Cash or electronic transfers to award recipients (e.g. living stipends)
 - Reimbursements upon receipt to award recipients (e.g. research supplies)
 - Direct vendor payments upon invoice (e.g. airline tickets, venue rentals, course fees)
- Under limited circumstances, the Foundation may provide a cash advance directly to recipients for purchase of supplies. When this occurs, recipients must submit receipts and any remaining balance to the Foundation and account for the total amount of the advance.
- Grant and scholarship payment schedules vary and are outlined in a recipient's Award Contract. Funds may be apportioned for release at the onset of a grant or scholarship, when progressive milestones are reached, and after final deliverables are produced.
- For payments which require a currency other than dirhams (AED), the going exchange rate will be used. Such payments will be made electronically and grouped when possible to avoid excessive fees.



7 | Logistics Coordination for Visiting Scholars & Interns

This section addresses logistical issues associated with hosting international visiting scholars at the Foundation. Visiting scholars are individuals or organizations who have been awarded Doctoral Research, Faculty Research, or Seed Grants to carry out research or projects in Ras Al Khaimah. Topics addressed in this section may also have limited relevance to interns and other locally-based grant recipients.

- 7.1 Primary Foundation Contacts
- 7.2 Health Insurance and Emergency Contacts
- 7.3 Transportation
- 7.4 Accommodation
- 7.5 Visas
- 7.6 Translation
- 7.7 Research Affiliation
- 7.8 Other Support

7.1 Primary Foundation Contacts

- The Foundation's Grant Manager is the main point of contact for visiting scholars and is the first person scholars should go to when seeking assistance from the Foundation.
- The Grant Manager will coordinate with other Al Qasimi Foundation staff as necessary to ensure scholar needs are met.
- Scholars should not request direct assistance from departmental staff (e.g. accounting, human resource, translation) unless they have been told to do so by the Grant Manager. This would only happen after the Grant Manager has informed staff that a scholar will be coming to them for a specific reason.
- In addition to the Grant Manager, scholars may be assigned a contact in the research department that they can liaise with on research-related questions and issues.

7.2 Health Insurance and Emergency Contacts

- All scholars and interns are required to maintain full medical coverage that is valid in the UAE for the duration of the Award Period as outlined in the Award Contract. Scholars and interns should provide a copy of their medical coverage to the Foundation upon arrival, which will be added to their award file.
- Scholars and interns waive all liability of the Foundation and its staff, partners, and affiliates should unforeseen events or illness occur during their time in Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE.
- Once established, scholars and interns should provide the Foundation with a UAE mobile number in case they need to be reached outside normal office hours.
- Scholars and interns must provide the name, relationship, phone number(s), and e-mail address(es) for at least one emergency contact in their country of origin.



7.3 Transportation

As required, the Foundation assists visiting scholars with international and local transportation needs associated with their awards.

7.3.1 Air Tickets

- If air tickets are included in a grant award, the Foundation will cover round-trip economy airfare from a scholar's country of origin. Should scholars wish to upgrade to a business class ticket, they are responsible for using their miles or covering the fare difference. This is also true for adding additional destinations to their itinerary. In such instances, it may be easier for scholars to book their own tickets (with prior approval from the Foundation) and seek reimbursement on arrival.
- The Foundation uses a local travel agent to make airline reservations. Efforts are made to balance price, schedule/itinerary, air carrier quality, and scholar preferences. Scholars have a chance to review their itinerary before tickets are confirmed.
- Scholars may suggest preferred airline(s) and flight schedule(s) to assist in the booking process, but the final decision remains at the discretion of the Foundation.

7.3.2 Airport Transfers

- The Foundation provides airport transfers at the beginning and end of a visiting scholar's time in Ras Al Khaimah based on the confirmed flight itinerary. If scholars arrive in the UAE early or have plans to stay late, another pick-up or drop-off destination (e.g. hotel) may be possible with prior notification.
- Scholars are responsible for arranging airport transfers (at their own expense) for any additional travel plans that may fall during their time in Ras Al Khaimah. This would include conferences, travel to other data collection sites in the region, or sightseeing plans. The Foundation can provide references for reliable drivers as needed.

7.3.3 Local Ground Transportation

- The Foundation will provide or help coordinate local transportation in Ras Al Khaimah (pending driver availability) for scholars who are only in country a few days. Otherwise, the Foundation can assist scholars in arranging a local car hire.
- When a car rental is included in a grant award, the Foundation covers an economy-class (Doctoral Grant) or compact-class (Faculty/Seed Grants) car with associated insurance. Scholars may upgrade to a larger vehicle at their own expense.
- Visiting scholars are assumed to have a driving license that is valid for renting a car on a tourist or visit visa in the UAE. The Foundation will not cover costs associated with gaining an international or UAE driving license.
- If a car rental is listed as a grant inclusion but the scholar is unable (or prefers not) to drive in the UAE, a travel allowance for taxi and bus fares can be substituted. The allowance would be pro-rated 500 AED/month and does not require receipts.



7.4 Accommodation

- When accommodation is offered as part of a grant award, it is only for the visiting scholar. It does not include accommodation for spouses/significant others or dependents. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances and accommodation options available. Scholars must raise the possibility of accommodation for additional individuals and file a formal exception request during the grant inclusions confirmation process (see Section 13).
- The Foundation maintains several furnished accommodation options for hosting grant recipients and interns. The two-bedroom Scholars Apartment is considered the primary housing option for doctoral scholars and interns and can accommodate up to three individuals. The two-bedroom VIP Apartment is for faculty and seed grant recipients and can accommodate two individuals at a time.
 - The Scholars Apartment has two twin beds in one room and a double bed in the other room. The VIP Apartment has double beds in both rooms. Regardless of apartment, each bedroom has a lock on the door and includes a separate, attached bathroom. Kitchen and living room areas are considered common spaces.
 - Depending on the visiting scholars/intern calendar there is a strong chance the apartments will be mixed gender. If the Scholars Apartment is mixed gender and at capacity, two women or two men share the room with the twin beds.
 - The Foundation tries to minimize overlaps that require room sharing in the Scholars Apartment to 1-2 weeks for visiting scholars, but interns are often expected to share for longer periods of time.
 - While the Foundation provides a weekly cleaning service, scholars and interns are expected to be considerate of others and keep public/shared spaces clean. This includes washing their own dishes, doing their own laundry, and keeping their belongings organized.
 - The apartments are strictly smoke-free. Absolutely no smoking may take place anywhere inside the apartments (and is strongly discouraged in building common areas as well). Individuals found smoking in the apartments automatically forfeit the damage deposit and may be asked to find alternative accommodation at their own expense.
 - Absolutely no food is allowed in the bedrooms. Food in the kitchen should be stored in sealed containers or the fridge to minimize pests. Garbage should also be regularly taken out, especially after extensive food preparation.
 - Alcohol is permitted in the apartments, but scholars and interns should be aware that 21 is the legal drinking age in the UAE. Individuals who chose to consume alcohol are accountable for their decisions and actions. They should also remain respectful of flat mates and guests who may have differing views on the subject.



- The apartments must remain an environment that is conducive to work and research. However, it should also be a place where people feel free to come and go as needed and to invite occasional guests. Individuals should avoid commandeering common spaces in ways that make others feel unwelcome to spend time in the apartment.
- Occasional overnight guests (such as visiting family and friends) are permissible in Foundation-provided accommodation when a scholar or intern has a private apartment or room and the stay is less than three nights in duration.
 - Scholars and interns may have no more than two guests staying with them at any given time, and they are fully responsible for the behavior and actions of their guests.
 - Scholars and interns should notify the Foundation's Grant Manager in writing at least one week prior to the arrival of their guests. The communication should include guest name(s), their relationship(s) to the scholar, and their arrival/departure dates. Under certain circumstances, guests may be allowed to stay longer than three nights but this requires an exception from Foundation management (see Section 13).
 - As relevant and out of courtesy, scholars and interns should inform flat mates of potential guests in advance and confirm they are comfortable having the guests in the apartment.
 - When a visiting scholar or intern has a private room in a shared apartment, guests are expected to sleep and keep their belongings in the scholar's room. They are not allowed to sleep or keep their belongings in the apartment's common spaces.
 - The Foundation retains the right to revoke guest privileges if scholars or interns have steady streams of visitors or the same guests periodically staying 1-3 nights. Guest privileges will also be revoked if guests cause significant accommodation damage or behave in a manner that makes others sharing the accommodation uncomfortable.
- The accommodation provided as part of a grant award are considered Foundation property. Upon arrival, scholars and interns sign a separate accommodation agreement and confirm they will treat their accommodation and associated contents with care. Unintentional (wear-and-tear) damage should be immediately reported. Scholars and interns will bear all costs and responsibility associated with replacing lost or damaged property that goes unreported.
- Should significant issues with the treatment of accommodation and furnishings arise, the Foundation reserves the right to withhold a portion of the grant award as a damage deposit. For doctoral scholars and interns, the Foundation also reserves the right to inform their dissertation advisors and university.
- For short-term stays in Ras Al Khaimah the Foundation may opt to arrange accommodation at a local hotel in lieu of a sponsored apartment. Selected hotels will be moderately priced and guaranteed to be clean, comfortable, and conveniently located to the Foundation. Should scholars prefer to upgrade to an alternative hotel, they may do so at their own expense. Upgrades should be coordinated through the Foundation's Grant Manager.



7.5 Visas

- The Foundation typically covers visa costs for visiting scholars as part of their grant awards. Specifics will vary based on nationality (country of passport issue) and are outlined in the Award Contract.
- Given the limited visa schemes available in the UAE and potential liabilities incurred, most visiting scholars and interns will join the Foundation under a tourist visa. Only Fulbright Scholars are eligible for a work visa due to the scholarship program's requirements of host institutions.
- Visiting scholars and interns eligible for a tourist on-arrival visa will need to arrange travel outside the UAE or visa runs every 30 days. It is the scholar's responsibility to track the number of days remaining each month and coordinate visa runs as necessary with the Grant Manager.
- For visiting scholars or interns requiring an advance visa, the Foundation will assist with the application process to secure a visa that will cover the scholar's stay in the UAE during the Award Period or intern's stay for the duration of the internship.

7.6 Translation

- Although Arabic language skills are an asset for conducting research in Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE, they are not required for grant eligibility.
- The Foundation offers visiting scholars basic English/Arabic translation support for written materials. This includes survey instruments, introductory research summaries, and formal letters as needed.
- The Foundation may be able to facilitate occasional translation support for in-person exchanges such as meetings or school visits. However, such requests need to be discussed with the Grant Manager in advance and arranged with sufficient notice.
- Scholars requiring additional or more regular English/Arabic translation support (or translation support in another language) should specify such needs during the time of their grant application. Should the Foundation agree to offer additional translation support, it will be outlined in the Award Contract.
- Scholars who fail to disclose the full extent of their translation needs may need to hire an outside translator at their own expense. In such instances, the Foundation can provide referrals for reliable translators.



7.7 Research Affiliation

- Visiting scholars are considered to have a loose research affiliation with the Foundation, which is formally documented through inclusion of a professional profile on the organization's website. However, the specific research being undertaken and views expressed are deemed independent of this affiliation and belong solely to the visiting scholar—the Foundation will not take ownership or responsibility for them.
- Scholars must sign the Foundation's standard confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement when they accept their award. The original confidentiality agreement is added to the award file and a copy is provided to recipients for their records. Refusal to sign the confidentiality agreement will result in forfeiture of the grant award.
- The Foundation does its best to help scholars secure access to key individuals or organizations relevant to their projects. Depending on the dynamics at play, scholars may find there are benefits to using their home institution vs. Foundation affiliation. Scholars should discuss the strategic benefits and drawbacks of highlighting their different affiliations with the Grant Manager in order to increase the likelihood of successful access.
- The Foundation will provide visiting scholars with a letter of introduction that can be used when initially contacting individuals or organizations relevant to the recipient's project.
- If scholars anticipate needing business cards, they should bring them from their home institution or make personal cards on arrival (at their own expense) as these will not be provided by the Foundation.
- Visiting scholars should expect to use a personal e-mail address or one provided by their home university or organization. The Foundation does not provide scholars with an e-mail account.

7.8 Other Support

- The Foundation provides visiting scholars with office space, including phone and internet connections. Basic office supplies are available as well and can be requested through the Foundation's Grant Manager.
- Scholars should provide their own laptop for daily use. They will receive assistance establishing access to the Foundation's printer network. Scholars are asked to be mindful of how much they print and to print double-sided when possible.
- The Foundation has licenses for several specialized software packages capable of analyzing quantitative and qualitative data (e.g. NVivo and SPSS). Although staff and Foundation projects take priority, scholars may arrange to use these tools through the Grant Manager.
- Scholars have access to materials in the Foundation's research library during normal office hours. Should they wish to take materials from the library, they can temporarily check them out through the Grant Manager. All materials must be returned prior to departure. Failure to do so will result in charges to replace unreturned items.



- The Foundation will provide scholars access to its collaboration network and share contact lists of individuals and organizations relevant to their projects. In some instances, the Foundation may go so far as providing virtual introductions. It remains the responsibility of visiting scholars, though, to follow-up and arrange their own appointments.
- The Foundation can provide recommendations for local travel arrangements in the UAE, such as conveniently located and reasonably priced hotels, travel times and routes, and reliable drivers. However, scholars are responsible for arranging their own logistics. If funds for local travel are included in the grant award, scholars should coordinate with the Grant Manager to identify the best options for vendor payment or scholar reimbursement.



8 | Visiting Scholar Arrival & Induction

The Foundation strives to ensure visiting scholars experience a smooth transition to Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE. The Grant Manager will facilitate a short induction in collaboration with relevant staff on a scholar or intern's first official day. The induction generally addresses:

- Staff introductions and office tour
- Highlights of Foundation's organizational culture
- Review and formal signing of Award Contract and Confidentiality Agreement
- Collection of emergency contacts and health insurance forms
- Technology support (printer set-up, finger print scans)
- Health and safety overview
- Picture for website profile
- Assistance with hiring a rental car
- Provision of "Living in Ras Al Khaimah" guide book
- Addressing visiting scholars' questions

In addition, the induction covers Foundation policies and procedures that apply to visiting scholars:

- **Office hours** – Although scholars are largely free to set their own schedules and to come and go as they please, they should be mindful of staff availability for providing assistance. The Foundation's standard work hours are Sunday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Quiet time is observed each morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and scholars should avoid interrupting staff or scheduling meetings with staff during this period.
- **Building access** – The RAK Gas Building is generally open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the week. Even if the Foundation is closed, scholars can enter their designated work space and common areas during these times through a finger scan. Occasional building access on a Friday or Saturday can be provided if needed, but scholars should coordinate such requests with the Foundation's Grant Manager in advance.
- **Dress code** – At a minimum, dress should be clean, neat, and professional. Thursdays are casual days on which jeans and less formal attire may be worn. Women should avoid low-cut tops and skirts above the knee; shoulders should also be covered.
- **Lunch** – The Foundation provides a light lunch from 12:00-1:30 each day. Visiting scholars are welcome to join staff for the meal and socialize. Lunch conversations often prove an ideal time to learn more about Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE in terms of addressing practical day-to-day needs or gaining advice on how to approach research issues.
- **Mobile phones** – Please switch mobiles to silent or vibrate when in the office to avoid disrupting others.
- **Smoking** – The Foundation offices (and RAK Gas Building) are smoke-free. Smoking is not permitted indoors at any time. Visiting scholars should position themselves at least 5 meters from an entrance when taking smoke breaks outside. Cigarette stubs should be thoroughly extinguished and discarded in a rubbish bin.



9| Communications & Media Relations

Award recipients are expected to be pro-active in their communications with the Foundation before, during, and after the Award Period and should respond to information requests in a timely manner. They also consent to being profiled in Foundation communication materials to highlight their research and professional experience in Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates. This potentially includes the Foundation's website, brochures, annual reports, and press releases:

- All current visiting scholars will have a bilingual written profile on the Foundation's website in the "[Our Team](#)" section. Inclusion of a picture is encouraged but not required.
- Grant and scholarship recipients may be asked to complete a short video or podcast interview toward the end of their awards or field research in Ras Al Khaimah. The interviews will be edited to post on the Foundation's respective YouTube and Soundcloud channels, and potentially embedded on different pages of the Foundation's website. Such video and podcast profiles may also be featured in one of the Foundation's electronic newsletters or social media posts.
- Depending on the topic and duration of their research, award recipients may be asked to write or significantly contribute to a feature article highlighting their work for the Foundation's quarterly newsletter or blog. In such instances, the Communications Department works closely with the scholar on the article's theme, tone, and structure. Once a reasonable draft is complete, the Communications Department is responsible for the editing process. Scholars have a chance to review the final version before the article is published.
- Occasionally, a grant recipient's research or project may address an issue that is considered newsworthy by local media. In such instances, the Foundation may create a press release or connect the scholar with a specific reporter. Scholars should keep the Grant Manager apprised of interview outcomes and publishing timelines. They should also share a copy of the final article or interview for inclusion on the Foundation's website and social media channels when it becomes available.
- If grant recipients receive direct media requests for a story, they should inform the Grant Manager. They should also provide a link to the final article or interview for inclusion on the Foundation's website and social media channels when it becomes available.



10 | Deliverables

Award recipients generally have a number of deliverables associated with their grants or scholarships, which are documented in the formal Award Contract. Recipients are expected to meet any stated deliverable deadlines and to proactively communicate with the Grant Manager if it appears an extension may be needed. All deadline extension requests/approvals must be formally documented in writing so that they can be appended to the original Award Contract. Failure to meet deadlines or produce deliverables may result in partial or full award cancellations or repayments.¹⁰

Although deliverables are tailored to a specific grant or scholarship award, the most common are detailed in this section:

- 10.1 Policy and Working Papers
- 10.2 Other Reports
- 10.3 Blog Entries
- 10.4 Majlis Sessions
- 10.5 Other Workshops

10.1 Policy and Working Papers

- Policy papers are relatively short documents (approximately 3,500 words) that address current policy issues and propose courses of action based on research findings. Decision makers are the primary audience for policy papers, but secondary audiences may include journalists, diplomats, administrators, researchers, and community stakeholders as well.
- Working papers are longer documents (minimum 5,000 words) that address a research question and discuss relevant background literature, methodologies, data analysis, and results. Academics and researchers are the primary audience for working papers.
- The findings and conclusions expressed in policy or working papers are solely those of the authors. They are not attributable to the Foundation.
- Award recipients should discuss the foci and outlines of their papers in advance with the Foundation's Managing Editor and management team. This helps to clarify expectations and facilitates a smooth writing and editing process. It also affords opportunities to brainstorm the best means for presenting potentially sensitive findings to reduce the likelihood of censorship or dismissal by local decision makers.
- The Foundation follows the American Psychological Association (APA) standards of style and citation. Award recipients are expected to adhere to APA standards as well as the Foundation's specific guidelines for policy and working papers. The Grant Manager or Managing Editor will provide award recipients with copies of all relevant guidelines to facilitate writing of their papers.

¹⁰ The exact amount will be determined based on the deliverables or conditions that were not met and shall be at the sole discretion of the Foundation.



- Award recipients should submit a reasonable draft of their paper(s) to the Grant Manager prior to the end of the Award Period for addition to the Foundation’s editorial calendar.
- All submitted papers go through several rounds of academic editing to address content and style issues. Award recipients are expected to respond to comments and requested changes in a timely manner and meet any deadlines set during the editorial process.
- The Foundation is committed to the open access of information and building the amount of high-quality research publically available on Ras Al Khaimah, the United Arab Emirates, and the broader region. All policy and working papers will be published on the “[Publications](#)” section of the Foundation’s website and its [Academia.edu](#) profile. Select papers may also be translated into Arabic or printed for distribution to local policy makers and university libraries.

10.2 Other Reports

- There may be occasions when a policy or working paper is not a suitable channel for conveying the results of a project (e.g. School Grants, Seed Grants). In such instances, award recipients may be requested to submit information in an alternative reporting format.
- Requests for alternative reports will be discussed in advance and specific guidelines will be given that are appropriate for the project’s context.
- Award recipients should submit their reports to the Grant Manager, who will provide feedback and outline any modifications to the normal editorial process.
- Depending on the final format and anticipated audience, alternative reports may be published on the Foundation’s website, Ras Al Khaimah Teachers Network, or shared through other appropriate platforms.

10.3 Blog Entries

- To increase awareness for the Foundation’s work and that of the award recipients it sponsors, the Foundation maintains a blog. Blog entries are generally short (approximately 500 words) and maintain a more informal tone as they highlight one aspect of a larger project or research topic.
- The findings and conclusions expressed in blog entries are solely those of the authors. They are not attributable to the Foundation.
- Award recipients should discuss the timing, foci, and outlines of their blog entries in advance with the Foundation’s Managing Editor. This helps to clarify expectations and facilitates a smooth writing and editing process.
- Blog entries should be submitted directly to the Managing Editor by agreed upon deadlines and will likely go through a round of editing to address content, tone, and style issues. Award recipients are expected to respond to comments and requested changes in a timely manner.



10.4 Majlis Sessions

- Majlis sessions are public presentations that highlight a grant recipient's research findings and associated policy recommendations. A significant portion of the session should be devoted to the interactive exchange of questions and ideas in order to retain the informal conversation of a traditional Emirati majlis setting. The primary audiences for majlis sessions are relevant decision makers and interested community stakeholders.
- Award recipients should discuss the focus of their majlis in advance with Foundation management to ensure the session's relevance and accessibility to a largely general (and bilingual) public audience. The Grant Manager will ensure award recipients receive a copy of the majlis guidelines to assist in preparing their preparations.
- Majlis sessions should be scheduled through the Grant Manager at least one month in advance. The date selected should be at least 10 days prior to the end of the Award Period or a visiting scholar's departure.
- Award recipients should provide the Grant Manager with a short abstract or summary of their session. This summary will be translated into Arabic and used for promotional purposes on the Foundation's website and distribution over e-mail.
- All slides and handouts must be submitted one week before the scheduled majlis for translation into Arabic. Award recipients will receive an update on the number of expected guests and their language preferences at this time as well.

10.5 Other Workshops

- There may be occasions when a majlis session is unsuitable for sharing information in an interactive setting based on the type of award or primary audiences involved (e.g. Teacher Scholarships, School Grants). In such instances, award recipients may be requested to conduct a workshop or present their experiences in a different format.
- Requests for workshops or alternative presentations will be discussed in advance and specific guidelines will be given that are appropriate for the circumstances and audiences involved.
- Award recipients should work on logistics and promotional considerations with the Grant Manager, who will provide feedback and outline any modifications to the normal majlis process.



11 | Extensions & Funding Cancellations

Unusual situations may arise when a previously accepted grant or scholarship award must adjust its timeline or be declined, substantially reduced, or completely cancelled. Such decisions can be initiated by either the award recipient or Foundation. The decision—as well as its associated consequences (e.g. required actions, re-payments)—must be documented in writing.

- Recipients should keep the Grant Manager apprised of their progress and provide EARLY notification if they are falling behind in ways that jeopardize their ability to meet deliverable deadlines outlined in the Award Contract. Formal requests for an extension or timeline adjustment must be made in writing (see Section 13). The Foundation will review the situation and determine whether an extension is appropriate. If approved, the decision will be documented in writing and considered as an amendment to the original Award Contract.
- Recipients are required to inform the Grant Manager immediately of any changes to their employment status, as this may impact conditions outlined in the Award Contract and/or their continued eligibility for the award. Assuming recipients are in good-standing, the Foundation will make every effort to work with them so they can continue the project or professional development opportunity. Depending on the situation and structure of the Award Contract, a current award may need to be closed and re-opened under a new agreement.
- Recipients wishing to decline a previously accepted award must file a formal petition in writing (see Section 13). If no expenditures have been incurred, the Foundation will cancel the award without prejudice. If the Award Period has officially begun, the recipient may be required to repay (in part or full) any expenditures that have been incurred. Repayment decisions will be made based on the circumstances involved and are at the sole discretion of the Foundation's management.
- The Foundation seeks to provide feedback and maintain open communication with recipients in order to prevent situations from arising that could affect the status of their awards. In rare but serious situations, the Foundation will consider reducing or cancelling grant and scholarship awards if recipients:
 - Fail to make adequate progress toward meeting the conditions and deliverables outlined in their Award Contracts;
 - Demonstrate intentional personal, professional, or ethical misconduct;
 - Jeopardize the Foundation's community relationships and the ability of future award recipients to conduct research in Ras Al Khaimah;
 - Violate UAE laws; or
 - Engage in behavior that is deemed harassing, racially, or sexually offensive to Foundation staff or community partners.



- Before an award is reduced or cancelled, the Grant Manager will issue a formal warning in writing and meet with the recipient to discuss the specific issues that have arisen. Recipients typically have an opportunity to respond in writing, and depending on the severity of the situation, will be given an opportunity to improve their performance. All written exchanges between the Foundation and recipient will be added to the award file.
- If a recipient fails to show improvement and continues to have serious issues after the formal warning process, the Foundation reserves the right to reduce or cancel the recipient's award. Award reductions and cancellations are at the sole discretion of the Foundation's management and may include full or partial repayment of award expenditures depending on the circumstances involved. The decision will be formally documented in writing and added to the recipient's file.
- Under exceptional circumstances for very serious infractions, the Foundation reserves the right to bypass the normal warning process and immediately cancel a recipient's award. Again, this is at the sole discretion of the Foundation's management and may include full or partial repayment of award expenditures. The decision will be formally documented in writing and added to the recipient's file.



12 | Departure & Award Conclusion

At the conclusion of the Award Period, the Grant Manager will facilitate the formal closure of each award recipient's file and confirm that all award conditions have been met. The steps involved will vary based on the type of grant or scholarship awarded and if an individual is based locally or internationally. In general, the departure process will include:

- Return of Foundation property
- Final payments and reimbursements
- Formal and informal feedback on award recipient experience (e.g. exit interviews, surveys)
- Verify and update recipient's contact information
- Accommodation review (as applicable)
- Airport transfer arrangements (as applicable)
- Visa cancellation (Fulbright Scholars only)
- Letter confirming successful completion of award requirements and submission of all deliverables
- Addressing any remaining award recipient questions



13 | Exceptions

Any exceptions to the policies outlined in this handbook or to a recipient's Award Contract require the express approval of Foundation management. For both grant and scholarship awards, applicants and recipients wishing to request an exception must file a petition in writing with the Grant Manager. Written petitions must include:

- Background on petitioner's individual circumstances;
- Exception being requested and why the exception is needed;
- Supporting documentation from petitioner's university, employer, and/or RAK government leaders (as applicable); and
- Other information requested by the Foundation.

Once a decision is made regarding a petition, the Grant Manager will communicate this to the applicant or recipient in writing. Any petitions that are granted will be added to the petitioner's application or award file.



14 | Appendices

Most appendices are internal working documents which are only applicable to award recipients. They also undergo regular revision. To request the most current version of an appendix section listed below, please contact the Grant Manager at the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research.

Appendix A | Glossary of Terms

Appendix B | Research Ethics CITI Training (alternative to institutional IRB process)

Appendix C | Administrative Forms

- C1 Emergency Contact
- C2 Reimbursement
- C3 Travel Request
- C4 Progress Report

Appendix D | Deliverable Guidelines

- D1 Policy Paper Guidelines
- D2 Working Paper Guidelines
- D3 Blog Entry Guidelines
- D4 Al Qasimi Foundation Style Guide
- D5 Majlis Session Guidelines



A | Glossary of Terms

Applicant –	an individual or organization who is considering or in the process of applying for one of the Foundation’s competitive grant, scholarship, or internship opportunities.
Award –	a general term that refers to any grant or scholarship funding the Foundation offers to a recipient.
Award Addendum –	a formal letter that specifies changes to the conditions set forth in a recipient’s original Award Contract. This is usually issued after a successful petition.
Award Contract –	the formal agreement between recipients and the Foundation outlining grant or scholarship details, such as expectations of recipients, award inclusions, required deliverables and deadlines, award administration, ownership of purchased equipment, and approved exceptions.
Award Period –	the timeframe for which a grant or scholarship is active. It includes an official start and end date. All required activities and deliverables should be completed within this time period.
Cancellation –	an award that is declined when offered or ends before all grant activities and deliverables have been met. Depending on the circumstances and how a cancellation is initiated, it may require partial or full-repayment for any grant or scholarship funds that have been spent.
Closure Letter –	a formal letter that officially closes an open grant or scholarship file. Under normal circumstances, it will indicate successful completion of all grant activities and submission of deliverables. Closure letters that cancel awards
Deliverable –	a general term for any required event, publication, report, or other activity demonstrating progress or successful completion of terms and conditions set forth in the Award Contract.
End Date –	the day a grant, scholarship, or internship ends. All required deliverables associated with the award or internship should be completed by this date.
Exception –	a decision that reflects an exemption to an existing Foundation policy or eligibility requirement.
Exclusion –	an item that is not eligible for coverage in a grant or scholarship award.
Grant –	funding provided through a competitive application process to an individual or organization in order to carry out research or another project based on a submitted proposal.



Inclusion -	an item that is eligible for coverage in a grant or scholarship award and outlined in the formal Award Contract.
Intern –	a current student or recent graduate who joins the Foundation for a period of time to gain practical experience related to their studies or academic ambitions.
Internship –	the timeframe for which an intern is associated with the Foundation and actively contributing to on-going projects. It includes an official start and end date.
Local Recipients –	any grant or scholarship recipient who is already based in the United Arab Emirates.
Petition –	a request to waive a Foundation policy or make changes to terms and conditions outlined in a recipient’s Award Contract.
Recipient –	an individual or organization that receives grant or scholarship funding from the Foundation.
Scholarship –	funding provided through a competitive application process to an individual to pursue a professional development opportunity.
Start Date –	the day a grant, scholarship, or internship begins.
Visiting Scholars –	individuals or organizations based outside the United Arab Emirates who have accepted a competitive grant to carry out research or project in Ras Al Khaimah.