

Frequently Asked Questions: Al Qasimi Foundation Faculty Research Grants

Below are answers to questions frequently asked by applicants interested in the Al Qasimi Foundation's **Faculty Research Grants**:

Who is eligible to apply for the Faculty Research Grants?

The Faculty Research Grants are open to current faculty members who hold doctoral (or other terminal) degrees at recognized tertiary institutions from across the world.

What types of research does the Al Qasimi Foundation fund through its Faculty Research Grants?

The Al Qasimi Foundation's mission is to support the social and economic development of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates. The Faculty Research Grants are designed to align with this mission and provide funding for applicants seeking to research education, public policy, or closely related social science issues or questions.

Depending on the proposed research question, disciplines the Grants may fund include: education, urban planning/development, public health, economic development, food access, and energy or environmental policy.

In addition, proposed research must focus on the United Arab Emirates, and specifically the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. If the research proposal includes other locations, Ras Al Khaimah must be a primary site for data gathering and analysis. Samples of past Grant recipient research topics are available as working papers through Foundation Publications.

Applicants who have questions on whether their proposed research topics adequately align with the Grant criteria may contact the Al Qasimi Foundation.

What is the duration of Faculty Research Grants, and what expenses do they cover?

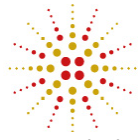
The Grants are designed to sponsor faculty conducting research in Ras Al Khaimah over the summer or as part of a sabbatical. They provide housing for a period of up to two months and economy-class return airfares. In addition, the Al Qasimi Foundation provides office space, research support, and administrative assistance.

What if the proposed research may take longer than the allotted two months?

The Al Qasimi Foundation will guarantee office space and research support for a period of up to six months. Depending on availability, the provision of accommodation may also be extended. However, such accommodation extensions cannot be guaranteed, and they may not fully cover the additional time required to complete the proposed research. In such instances, recipients are responsible for their housing costs after two months or when the Foundation accommodation becomes unavailable thereafter.

Is there extra funding to cover the needs of families who accompany Grant recipients to Ras Al Khaimah?

No, the Al Qasimi Foundation does not provide the above benefits to family members who



wish to accompany the Grant recipient to Ras Al Khaimah. The furnished accommodation is sufficient, though, should a spouse choose to accompany the Grant recipient and bear the associated costs.

What are the Al Qasimi Foundation's expectations of Grant recipients?

Applicants who submit successful proposals and receive Faculty Research Grants are expected to produce at least one working paper and make at least one presentation to members of the local research community. They may also be asked to provide interviews to local media channels regarding their research topics and findings as part of the Al Qasimi Foundation's broader engagement and communication efforts.

Will the Al Qasimi Foundation fund research that will be conducted outside of Ras Al Khaimah?

The purpose of the Faculty Research Grants is to encourage faculty to research an aspect of policy or education within Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates. As a result, the Al Qasimi Foundation does not generally fund research that will be conducted outside of Ras Al Khaimah. Occasionally, proposed research may take a comparative approach that requires additional locations. In such instances, Ras Al Khaimah must be a significant focus for data gathering and analysis in order for the proposal to be considered eligible for funding.

Do applicants need to know Arabic in order to be eligible for Faculty Research Grants?

Arabic language skills are an advantage but not required for eligibility purposes. Similarly, prior knowledge, research, or experience in the United Arab Emirates or Arabian Gulf region is also an asset. As appropriate, applicants are encouraged to highlight such relevant language skills and experiences in their cover letters.

Can applicants still apply for Faculty Research Grants if they do not meet the minimum TOEFL score of 600 or IELTS score of 6.5?

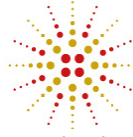
Unfortunately, no. English is the Al Qasimi Foundation's primary language for conducting daily business and publishing its research studies. It is important for Grant recipients to have strong English language skills as they are expected to produce several scholarly papers and make formal presentations. Therefore, applicants will not be considered eligible for the Grants unless they meet the minimum scores.

Should applicants contact the Al Qasimi Foundation to discuss the Faculty Research Grants before submitting a formal application?

Yes, applicants wishing to apply for Faculty Research Grants are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Al Qasimi Foundation before submitting an application. Such preliminary conversations help to ensure that proposals align with Grant eligibility criteria and current projects. Al Qasimi Foundation staff may also be aware of resources that would be helpful as applicants assemble their proposals.

How long after submitting a Faculty Research Grant application will results be announced?

Grant applications undergo a preliminary review upon submission to ensure they meet minimum eligibility criteria. Those that meet or exceed the criteria are compiled until the application deadline, at which point they are forwarded to the selection committee for a



final, collective review. The formal review and selection process may take up to two months depending on the number of proposals. As a result, applicants should not expect news on funding decisions until six to eight weeks after the submission deadline has passed.

* PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for the current application cycle is March 1, 2016.

What criteria does the selection committee use to determine which proposals to fund?

Faculty Research Grants are awarded based on merit as measured by academic achievement and relevance of the research proposal. Demonstrated intellectual distinction and academic integrity, record of scholarly research and publications, and reputation of an applicant's current institution as well as those where they earned their degrees are all factors in the evaluation process. The applicant's academic discipline is also considered, with preference given to those whose areas of expertise and research focus on education, public policy, or closely related fields. The Al Qasimi Foundation Directors and Advisory Board serve as the evaluation and selection committee.

How many Faculty Research Grants does the Al Qasimi Foundation award each year?

The Grant review process is very competitive, and while the Al Qasimi Foundation receives many excellent and high-quality proposals, a maximum of three Faculty Research Grants are available each year. The proposals chosen for funding represent the innovative ideas that align best with the Al Qasimi Foundation's overall mission to aid in the social and economic development of the Ras Al Khaimah emirate.

When can Faculty Research Grant recipients begin their research in Ras Al Khaimah?

Scheduling of the field research is flexible, and exact dates will be mutually agreed upon by Grant recipients and the Al Qasimi Foundation. Although dependent on time required to make travel arrangements, process visas, and complete necessary paperwork, Grant recipients should generally be able to commence their research as early as the beginning of June. Grants must be used within 12 months of being awarded or recipients will forfeit the funding.

For additional questions regarding Faculty Research Grants not addressed above, please contact the Al Qasimi Foundation at info@alqasimifoundation.rak.ae.