



Frequently Asked Questions: Al Qasimi Foundation Doctoral Research Grants

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

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

The Al Qasimi Foundation's mission is to support the social and economic development of Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates. The Doctoral 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.

Disciplines the Grants may fund (based on research question) include: education, urban planning/development, public health, economic development, food access, and energy or environmental policy.

Disciplines the Grants WILL NOT fund include: business or marketing, agronomy, engineering, IT or computer science, laboratory-based or scientific studies, and medical degrees.

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 Doctoral Research Grants, and what expenses do they cover?

Doctoral Research Grants provide up to one year of funding for expenses related to a recipient's field research while in Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates. This includes the recipient's return airfares, furnished accommodation, living stipend, research support, and office space.

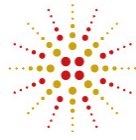
* PLEASE NOTE: The Grant does not cover a recipient's general university tuition or fees.

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.

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

Applicants who submit successful proposals and receive Doctoral Research Grants are expected to produce one to two working papers and make at least one presentation to members of the local research community. They may also be asked to provide occasional interviews to local media channels regarding their research topic and findings as part of the



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 Doctoral Research Grants is to encourage students 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 Doctoral Research Grants allow students who are already attending a university in Ras Al Khaimah or the United Arab Emirates to travel abroad for research?

No, the focus of the Doctoral Research Grants is on Ras Al Khaimah, and only applications for research studies to be conducted within the emirate will be considered.

Emirati students wishing to conduct research abroad should contact the [Sheikh Saqr Program for Government Excellence](#) as the organization may be an alternative source of funding should candidates meet their selection criteria.

Must applicants wait until they are in a PhD program to be eligible for a Doctoral Research Grant? What if they are currently enrolled in (or just completed) a master's program at an accredited university?

All applicants must be currently enrolled in a PhD program at an accredited university in order to be eligible for the Grants. Students enrolled in (or just completing) master's programs do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

In addition to being a current PhD student, applicants must also be ready to begin the research stage of their program. This means all coursework must be complete and that an applicant's research proposal should be approved (or in the process of being approved) by their faculty advisor and graduate program. Therefore, applicants should only apply for a Grant after officially gaining admission to and enrolling in a PhD program.

Can applicants still apply for Doctoral 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.

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

Arabic language skills are an advantage but not required for eligibility purposes. Similarly, prior knowledge 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.



How long after submitting a Doctoral 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?

Doctoral Research Grants are awarded based on merit as measured by academic performance and relevance of the research proposal. The applicant's intended field of study is also considered in the evaluation process, with preference given to those applicants pursuing degrees in education, public policy, or closely related fields. The Al Qasimi Foundation Directors and Advisory Board serve as the evaluation and selection committee.

How many Doctoral 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, only two Doctoral 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 emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

When can 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 Doctoral Research Grant recipients and the Al Qasimi Foundation. Generally, recipients will commence their research toward the beginning of a new academic year (August-October). However, start dates as early as June may be possible depending on research needs and the time required to complete necessary paperwork.

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