



Tertiary Education Research Fund Grant Writing Webinar

17 April 2025

A PRESENTATION BY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE



Programme Outline

1. Recap on objectives of the Tertiary Education Research Fund (TRF) and aim of this webinar
2. Sharing of grant writing skills by Prof Bernard Tan, Senior Vice Provost (Undergraduate Education) at the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Shaw Professor in the Department of Information Systems and Analytics
3. Q & A

**Objectives of the Tertiary Education Research Fund (TRF)
&
Aims of this Grant Writing Webinar**

The intent of the TRF is to support pedagogical research in the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and to encourage inter-institutional collaborations

1. The TRF focus on building research capabilities and cultivating greater expertise in two areas:
 - Pre-employment training
 - Translational research on education policy
2. To support the focus on translational research on education policy, themes which cater to MOE's policy priorities and/or specific areas of interest within tertiary education were introduced in addition to the general call.

Project Types, Funding Thresholds, Evaluation Criteria and Themes

Project Types	Funding Thresholds	Evaluation Criteria	Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideation • Proof of Concept • Translation • Scaling • Evaluation 	<p>or</p> <p>Tier A: offering a lower quantum of funding (up to S\$150,000 per project over a 2-year period) for smaller-scale studies.</p> <p>Tier B: offering a larger quantum of funding (up to S\$250,000 per project over a 3-year period) for longer-term studies seeking to scale up or translate positive outcomes from earlier projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Merit • Effective Collaborations • Quality of Research Team • Budget and Resource Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of Interdisciplinary Education 2. Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Range of Learners 3. Preparing Students for the Future Workplace 4. Leveraging Technology to Enhance and Personalise the Learning Experience

This webinar was organized with the intent of enhancing grant writing skills

- Through this webinar, we hope that participants will gain insights into what reviewers look for in proposals, common pitfalls to avoid, and how to create realistic budgets to accompany their applications.



Q & A

Questions received prior to this webinar

1. Will the panel advise tier B submission to resubmit in the same year as tier A if they deem the proposal to be more suitable for tier A?

Applicants may be requested to scale down the proposed project, to be considered for funding.

2. Will the involvement of the PI and/or co-PI in another ongoing TRF grant affect their chances of a successful application?

The key consideration is time commitment/bandwidth. Participation in an ongoing TRF project will not weigh negatively, provided that the time commitment proposed by the Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI is deemed feasible and reasonable to complete the new project successfully.

Questions received prior to this webinar

3. Is it a requirement for tier B proposals to include external co-PI and/or collaborators?

It is not a requirement for tier A or B proposals. Nonetheless applicants are encouraged to draw on the best research capabilities across Singapore and collaborate across institutions and discipline areas where appropriate.

4. Will the proposals undergo a blind review process to ensure that the assessment is based solely on their merits, without being influenced by the identity of the institution or team members?

As it is still possible to make an educated guess on the identity of the research team based on the listed publications in the CVs, there are currently no plans to introduce a double-blind review process.



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