

**STARTING GRANT FOR RESEARCH GROUPS AND CONSOLIDATOR GRANT FOR
LABORATORIES (SUBDIVISIONS)
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "The Committee") announces a Call for Proposals for the **Starting Grant for Research Groups and Consolidator Grant for Laboratories (Subdivisions)** within the framework of contractual (topic-based) funding of scientific and technical activities.

Grants of up to **36 months** will be awarded on a competitive basis to research groups of 4-5 members, including a Principal Investigator (PI) with a proven track record of relevant publications (to be specified below) during the last 5 years, for ambitious, ground-breaking and feasible research projects aimed at the establishment of new research groups and laboratories, as well as strengthening existing research laboratories and subdivisions.

✓ **Who can apply?**

All of the members of the research group must be citizens of the Republic of Armenia and reside there throughout the implementation of the project. The group must have one foreign partner/collaborator. The latter shall not be considered as a member of the group and shall not receive remuneration within the frames of the project. A Project shall be deemed eligible if it meets the entry criteria presented below.

➤ **Principal Investigator shall:**

- be below 40 years of age;
- hold a PhD degree obtained no later than 1 January 2019;
- have a certain number of publications in the given field of research during the last 5 years, namely:

For the Fields of Research listed in Section A of the Appendix 1 hereto	For the Fields of Research listed in Section B of the Appendix 1 hereto
- No less than 2 research articles published in Impact Factor (IF) journals according to the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI JCR),	- At least 1 research article published in Impact Factor (IF) journals,
OR - No less than 4 research articles published in journals included in International scientific databases (ISD), <i>(ISD entails the following: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Arts&Humanities Citation Index (AHCI); a book chapter published by a publisher listed in the Book Citation Index, an article published in a collection or on the Scimago Journal & Country Ranking (SJR) portal, at least in the Q4 quartile).</i>	OR - at least 2 research articles published in journals included in International scientific databases (ISD),
OR - 1 monograph, collective monograph, or academic paper of at least 5 printer's sheets published by a publisher listed in the Web of Science Book Citation Index (hereinafter referred to as "Monograph").	OR 1 Monograph.
NOTE: At least 2 of the research articles mentioned above should not be co-authored by the doctoral advisor of the Principal Investigator's PhD thesis.	NOTE: At least 1 of the research articles in IF journals mentioned above should not be co-authored by the doctoral advisor of the Principal Investigator's PhD thesis.

➤ **Group members**

The group must involve at least 2 members less than 35 years of age (at least graduate students or graduates) with relevant specializations. The requirements towards the overall number of publications of group members (including the Principal Investigator) in the given field during the last 5 years are as follows:

For the Fields of Research listed in Section A of the Appendix 1	For the Fields of Research listed in Section B of the Appendix 1
- No less than 4 research articles published in IF journals,	- No less than 2 research articles published in IF journals,
- OR 8 research articles in journals included in ISD,	- OR 4 research articles in journals included in ISD,
- OR 2 Monographs.	- OR 1 Monograph.

➤ **Foreign Partner/Collaborator shall:**

- hold a PhD degree;
- conduct research activities in a foreign scientific organization in a project-related field;
- have a Hirsch index (h-index) of at least 10 (for the fields of research listed in Section A of the Appendix 1), or at least 3 (for the fields of research listed in Section B of the Appendix 1), according to the «Scopus» database (<https://www.scopus.com/freelookup/form/author.uri>)
- submit his/her CV and a Letter of Confirmation to reaffirm his/her awareness on the Project's content, his/her willingness to get involved in research activities and to host the group members at his/her scientific organization for carrying out Project-related activities (experiments, discussions, seminars etc.), as well as to specify the scope of his/her activities within the project. The mentioned documents must be sent electronically from his/her official email to the Committee's email address grants@scs.am **until 2 July 2021**, inclusively.
- visit the research group in the Republic of Armenia for at least 15 days throughout the 36-month implementation period of the project (relevant travel expenses may be included in the budget estimate of the Armenian research group), and
- host one or several group members at his/her scientific organization for an overall period of at least 15 days throughout the 36-month implementation period (relevant travel/accommodation expenses may be included in the budget estimate of the Armenian research group).

✓ **What proposals are eligible?**

• *Criteria*

Applications can be made in **any field of research, specified in the Appendix 1 hereto**. Research projects are expected to be ambitious, ground-breaking and feasible.

• *Location/Host Institution*

Project must be carried out in an Armenia-based research organization that is currently implementing a research program in the frames of the basic state funding.

✓ **Expected outcomes**

- Within 24 months after the beginning of the Project, a new research group, laboratory or subdivision is expected to be established in the Host Institution, that shall consist of the PI (as the head of the given group, laboratory or subdivision) and the group members. If at the time of

submitting the proposal, there already is a research group within the Host Institution, a new laboratory or subdivision is expected to be established during the mentioned period of time.

- Upon the completion of the 36-month implementation period of the Project, the group is expected to have a relevant number of publications in the given field of research:

For the Fields of Research of Groups 1-5 of the Appendix 1	For the Fields of Research of Group 6 of the Appendix 1
- No less than 3 research articles published in IF journals, at least 2 of which published in journals listed in Q1 and Q2 quartiles by the Scimago Journal & Country Ranking (SJR), available at https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php .	- At least 3 research articles published in journals included in ISD,
	- OR 1 Monograph.
At least 1 of the articles shall be published in co-authorship with the Foreign partner/collaborator.	

At least one of the articles (with less than 50 co-authors) submitted by the PI as a project outcome should include his/her name as the first author, the last author or a corresponding author.

As a result of the implementation of the project, the group is expected to submit at least one grant proposal worth 15,000,000.00 AMD (approximately 30,000.00 USD) to an international research grant.

The successful completion or failure to comply with the abovementioned outcomes shall trigger a Bonus-Penalty mechanism, which implies adding up to 5% or subtracting the same amount from the final score of the application submitted by the given research team to the Committee's Calls for Proposals in the future.

✓ **Other details**

If the submitted Proposal or Report contains materials that are the subject of copyright or patent, the Principal Investigator shall be guided by the provisions of the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On Copyright and Related Rights" and "On Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs". The Committee may publish the abstracts and reports of the projects guaranteed for funding both in print and on the Internet.

✓ **How much?**

Grants of up to AMD 55,000,000.00 (a rough equivalent of USD 105,000.00) and AMD 47,800,000.00 (a rough equivalent of USD 92,000.00) in total shall be awarded to 5- and 4-member groups for a 3-year period, respectively.

✓ **How to apply?**

Applications must be submitted by the Principal Investigator of the Armenian research group through the online system <https://grants.scs.am/> until **25 June 2021, 18:00 (GMT/UTC+4)**, inclusively.

For a grant application to be complete, it needs to include the administrative forms filled out by the PI, the budget estimate, the research proposal and the supplementary documents (group members' ID documents, the CVs of the PI and the foreign partner/collaborator, a Confirmation letter signed by the foreign partner/collaborator, as well as the conclusion of the scientific and technical council of the Host Institution).

✓ **Evaluation process**

The list of the Projects meeting the entry criteria of the Call for Proposals shall be approved by the Professional Expert Board (hereinafter referred to as “Board”). The eligible proposals shall undergo scientific expertise by two specialists of a relevant field included in the Board. Each of the experts shall fill out a separate evaluation form for each proposal. The final score of each proposal comprises the sum of the arithmetic mean of the two experts' evaluation scores (50% of the final score) and the score of the interview conducted by the Board (another 50% of the final score). The final score of the projects shall be calculated by the Board and presented to the Committee in the form of a final ranking list.

APPENDIX 1

FIELDS OF RESEARCH BY CLASSIFIERS

Section A

Section B

<p>1. Natural Sciences</p> <p>1.1 Mathematics 1.2 Computer and information sciences 1.3 Physical and astronomical sciences 1.4 Chemical sciences 1.5 Earth and related environmental sciences 1.6 Biological sciences</p> <p>2. Engineering and Technology</p> <p>2.2 Electrical engineering, electronic engineering, energy engineering, computing and information technologies 2.3 Mechanics 2.5 Chemical technologies 2.6 Material studies 2.7 Medical engineering 2.8 Environmental studies 2.9 Biotechnology 2.10 Nano-technology</p> <p>3. Medical and Health Sciences</p> <p>3.1 Basic medicine 3.2 Clinical medicine 3.3 Medical biotechnology</p>	<p>4. Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences</p> <p>4.1 Animal agriculture and veterinary science 4.2 Crop science 4.3 Soil science, agrochemistry, plant protection 4.4 Agricultural biotechnology</p> <p>2. Engineering and Technology</p> <p>2.1 Civil engineering and architecture 2.4 Mechanical science and mechanical engineering</p> <p>5. Social Sciences</p> <p>5.1 Psychology 5.2 Economics and business 5.3 Education 5.4 Sociology 5.5 Law 5.6 Political science 5.7 Social and economic geography 5.8 Media and communications</p> <p>6. Armenian Studies and Humanities</p> <p>6.1 History and archaeology 6.2 Languages and literature 6.3 Philosophy and ethics 6.4 Theology and religious studies 6.5 Arts</p>
---	--