



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

Introduction to the Research & Scholarship 2009 Competition

National Research Foundation, UAE

By **Dr Kenneth Wilson**
Director
National Research Foundation, UAE

January, 2009



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009

- Aims to support the very best internationally competitive *research and scholarship* in all fields within the UAE.
- The competition will be driven solely by the merit of the proposals as determined by international peer review.
- Every eligible person with competitive ideas is encouraged to apply.



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Eligibility

- ① The RSA competition is open to **all faculty** who are **resident** in UAE, and who are **employed**, either by a federal institution, or CAA institution.
- ① In almost all cases, NRF funds may be used **only** to support research and scholarship carried out in UAE.
- ① A faculty member may be the PI on **only one** submitted proposal and the co-PI on at most one additional proposal.



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Criteria

- ① How **important/significant** is the research or scholarship described in this proposal?
- ① How **novel/original** is the work being proposed?
- ① What is the **impact** of this work on the field or other fields?
- ① Does the PI have a **proven** track record commensurate with this stage of his/her career which indicates that the project will be completed as described?
- ① Has the PI **stated** the problem clearly and **described** in sufficient detail how he/she will tackle the problem?
- ① Is there any **educational and training** component in the proposal?
- ① What is the **value** of this project to the UAE?



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Application Process

- In order to be eligible for the competition, a one page Expression of Interest (EOI) **must** be submitted **before 13:00 on Monday, December 15, 2008.**
- The EOI **must** include the Title of the project, the PI's name and contact information and a 250 word abstract and 5 keywords.
- The domain for review **must** be selected by the PI from the list provided on the NRF Web Site.
- The EOI **must** be submitted electronically using the template provided on the NRF Web site.
(www.nrf.ae/rsa.aspx) .



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 List of Domains

Physical Sciences & Mathematics

Chemical Sciences

Engineering

Materials Science

Computer Science and Information Technology

Earth Sciences and Resource Exploration

Agricultural Sciences

Ecology and Environmental Science

Biological Science

Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science

Economics, Finance and Accounting

Business & Management

Social Sciences

Humanities and Cultural studies



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009

The RSA2009 competition will be run in two phases.

Phase 1:

A brief, 4 page, pre-proposal will be required and after review, the PIs of the most competitive pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Template for electronic submission will be available on NRF web site from **Friday, 16 January, 2009.**

The deadline for submission of all pre-proposals is **13:00 on Tuesday, 17 February 2009.**



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009

The pre-proposal **should** address the following 5 questions, within the 4 pages of text allowed.

1. **What** is the question(s) this proposal addresses?
2. **Why** is this research challenge significant (including its importance to UAE)?
3. **What** work has already been done that is relevant to the stated research goals?
4. **How** will the research question(s) be addressed?
5. **Why** is the research likely to succeed?



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009

Phase 2:

Full proposal submission will be similar but it will be by **invitation only** from among the pre-proposals after review. PIs will receive notification by early May 2009 on the outcome of their Pre-proposal evaluation. There will be a **budget** required for the full proposals and the text and figures will be limited to 10 pages.

The deadline for submission of all final proposals is **13:00 on Tuesday, 16 June 2009.**



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Budget

- ① **No budget** need be submitted at the **pre-proposal** stage.
- ① When submitting a **full proposal**, PIs should request and justify a **three year budget** which is adequate to carry out the proposed research program.
- ① The **maximum** award will be less than **AED 1 million** for three years although the average of all awards is likely to be around **AED 750,000** over the **three** years.
- ① Larger budget requests must reflect **exceptional** creativity and a strong record of international achievement on the part of the PI.



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Review Process

- ⦿ Panels of reviewers will be formed based on the number of proposals submitted to each domain.
- ⦿ All pre-proposals will be rated by panels of international reviewers selected by NRF staff **and the top 200 pre-proposals** will be invited to submit full proposals.
- ⦿ At the full proposal stage, proposals will be reviewed by a set of international reviewers who will also write reviews of each of the full proposals.



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Review Process

- ① Each full proposal will have at least three written reviews.
- ① The reviewers will meet in Dubai to discuss the proposals and recommend **approximately 100 proposals for awards.**
- ① The panel summary and the anonymized reviews will be provided to all PIs, who submit a full proposal, at the end of the process.



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

RSA2009 Timetable

- Expressions of Interest due **Monday, December 15, 2008 at 13:00.**
- Deadline for 4 page pre-proposals is **Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 13:00.**
- Results of pre-proposal competition and invitations to submit full proposals announced by early May, 2009
- Deadline for submission of invited 10 page full proposals is **Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 13:00**
- Recommendations for awards will be taken to H.E. Sheikh Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, on or about October 15, 2009



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

Tips & Hints for RSA2009

- ① **Deadlines will be adhered to strictly.**
 - There will be **NO** exceptions to this rule.
- ① **Page limits will be adhered to strictly.**
 - If the Call limit is 4 pages of text and 4 pages plus one line are submitted, the application will be deemed ineligible and returned to the PI. Note that when making a pdf file from another program such as Word, the pagination is sometimes changed. So **PI must check the pdf file to be sure it is within the page limits before submission.**



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

Tips & Hints 2

- ① **Avoid jargon.** Write for a generalist in your broad field.
 - Note that pre-proposal reviewing will be done by people who are likely **not** to be experts in exactly your field.
- ① **Draft your pre-proposal early and have someone NOT in your immediate field review it **critically**.**
 - Do not be the only person who has read your pre-proposal before it is submitted!!!



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

Tips & Hints 3

- ① **Write a focused pre-proposal.**
 - You cannot solve all the world's problems in three years even with AED one million.
- ① **Get to the point quickly.**
 - You only have four pages.
- ① **Use formatting that is easy to read.**
 - Avoid small fonts and very close spacing. **Do not annoy the reviewers.**
- ① **Edit your proposal carefully before submission.**
 - Reviewers will see misspellings, missing words etc. as a sign of carelessness in your research & scholarship.