

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التعليم العالي
والبحوث العلمي



الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي
National Research Foundation

Young Emirati Postgraduate Research Students Mobility Award (YEPRSMA) 2011

Call for Submission of Proposals

KEY DEADLINES

Proposal submission
Mobility grants announced

13:00, Monday, 21 November 2011
January 2012

Terms of Reference

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National Research Foundation
Young Emirati Postgraduate Research Students
Mobility Award

I. Introduction

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) advances the UAE national research agenda by awarding grants for research on a competitive basis in those fields of endeavor that will improve the quality of life of the citizens of UAE or contribute to the advancement of the UAE as a knowledge-based society.

The NRF recognizes that mobility of researchers and freedom of research are essential, as research thrives in dynamic environments and new concepts and products arise from the exchange of ideas and the pooling of great minds.

Researchers have been on the move since Ancient times. During the Middle Ages, e.g. the great advancements in astronomy, medicine and mathematics in the Arab World were distributed across Europe via Al Andalus. Since these first steps, mobility of researchers, thinkers and innovators has allowed the circulation of ideas, the exchange of concepts and the dissemination of techniques.

Mobility of researchers has been of high importance in previous times and is crucial today. The grand challenges that our knowledge-based society is facing can only be achieved by new ideas, knowledge and techniques brought forward by highly trained researchers embedded in international networks of collaborators. Thus, mobility of researchers needs to be encouraged, structured and sustained.

The **Young Emirati Postgraduate Research Students Mobility Award (YEPRSMA) 2011** program is intended to encourage young Emirati postgraduate research students to explore academic environments outside the UAE, gain knowledge in the relevant field of study and establish international networks. YERMA aims to reinforce the international dimension of the career of Emirati researchers by giving them the opportunity to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level organization active in research, established outside the UAE during an outgoing phase. Subsequently, these researchers will return with the acquired knowledge and experience to their home organization.

II. Program Objectives

The YEPRSMA 2011 is open to all disciplines and aims to

- Allow young Emirati postgraduate research students to realize an outgoing phase to an international host organization for training and acquiring new knowledge.
- Reinforce the international dimension of the career of Emirati researchers.
- Transfer internationally gained knowledge to home organization in the UAE.

- Encourage young Emirati researchers to establish an international network of collaboration.

III. Award Information

The YEPRSMA 2011 is awarded to Emirati postgraduate research students. The duration of the stay can range from 6 weeks to 6 months. The total amount per individual mobility award is **up to AED 50,000**.

Winners are expected to complete their study trip by 31 December 2012.

The eligible costs that can be covered by this grant are travel and subsistence costs (including insurance and visa costs), tuition fees or other training costs (e.g. workshop fees) incurred in connection with the outgoing period.

IV. Eligibility Conditions

1. Applicant must be
 - A UAE National citizen.
 - Must have completed undergraduate studies in any accredited Higher Education Institution in UAE or worldwide & must have certified proof of successful completion of studies.
 - Must be enrolled in a postgraduate research program (e.g. Master's by research or PhD studies) in an accredited Higher Education Institution in UAE or worldwide at the time of submission and must provide certified proof of enrolment.
2. Applicants of all ages may apply.

If any of the above conditions are not met, then NRF reserves the right to declare the nominee ineligible.

V. Application and Submission Instructions

Candidates for the YERMA 2011 have to submit their application electronically via the NRF Website. Deadline for submission **Monday, 21 November 2011 at 13:00**. **The deadline for submission is absolute. Failure to lodge the application by that time and date invalidates the applicant from this competition.**

Each YERMA 2011 application must specify the ***Frascati domain*** of research/scholarship in which their area of expertise will lie primarily and will be reviewed. Details of the Frascati domains may be found on NRF's website (<http://www.nrf.ae/ref/frascatiManual.pdf>). Exactly **one Frascati** domain must be selected, and should be the one closest to the Applicant's domain of expertise.

The submission must contain the following:

- **Motivation Letter** (max. 1 page): *mandatory*
a one page description of the motivation to participate in the YERMA 2011 highlighting the expected knowledge gain during the outgoing phase.

- **Institutions' Research Profile** (max. 2 pages): *mandatory*
research profile of both the host institution and the home institution. The host institution's research profile must include evidence of excellence in the field of research relevant to the application. The facilities and support structures for hosting the fellow needs to be addressed as well.
- **Study plan** (max 2 pages): *mandatory*
an overview of the expected training and acquiring of new knowledge during the outgoing phase (e.g. expected workshops/lectures to be attended, mentoring activities, etc.).
- **Budget** (max 1 page): *mandatory*
a table highlighting the expenditure of the award (i.e. registration fees, accommodation, per diem, ... etc)
- **Curriculum Vitae** (max 2 pages): *mandatory*
Applicant's full CV including scholarly biodata and any relevant publications.
- **Letters of commitment** (max 1 page): *mandatory*
a letter of commitment from the home institution and the host institution. This can be from the applicant's thesis advisor, mentor, etc.
- **Proof of Successful Completion of Studies** (max 2 pages): *mandatory*
a certified certificate or transcript from applicant's institution.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that he/she has uploaded the correct version and that the submission includes all the mandatory sections requested in this Call document.

Note: The applicant will be required to upload a single PDF file containing all the mandatory sections.

Warning: Failure to abide by the requested page limit for each section will result in disqualification from the competition.

VI. Proposal Review and Funding Criteria

Eligible submissions will be judged on the following merit criteria:

- **Quality of Research and Training**
 - Match between the candidates current research and the expected training
 - Multidisciplinary aspects
 - Additional skills training
 - Quality of the host organization and the supervisor
- **Researcher**
 - Match between the candidate's profile and the expected research and training
 - Potential to acquire new knowledge and transferring this to the home institution
- **Implementation**
 - Quality of infrastructure and facilities at host institution

- Practical and administrative arrangements, and support for the hosting of the fellow
- **Impact**
 - Potential of acquiring competencies during the outgoing phase
 - Contribution to career development of the candidate
 - Potential for creating long term collaborations and mutually beneficial co-operation between UAE and the host country

Proposals will be evaluated using electronic, postal or panel reviews by international experts having expertise in the fields relevant to the proposals. Once NRF has completed the decision process, all nominees, whether successful or not, will receive copies of the experts' evaluation report.

VII. Award Administration

Award Notification: NRF will make the notification of the award or declination to the submitting individuals. A Grant Award Ceremony will be celebrated in early January 2012 (exact date to be announced in advance) and the selected candidates for the YERMA 2011 are expected to participate in this event.

Special Conditions: YERMA 2011 awards are subject to all the usual NRF conditions for grants.

VII. Agency Contacts

The NRF contact information is listed on the NRF website. Before approaching NRF with questions, please check the information on the NRF Webs site, and more in particular the relevant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

VIII. Key Dates

Timeline of Applications and Evaluations:

STAGE	DATE
1. General Announcement and Call issued	10 October 2011
2. Deadline for application submission	21 November 2011
3. External evaluation of applications completed	22 December 2011
4. NRF sends notification on awarding decision	2 January 2012
5. Grant Awarding Ceremony	Early January 2012