

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 Researchers Prize 2011 (YERP)

Call for Submission of Nominees

KEY DEADLINES

Nominees submission
Winners announced

13:00, Monday, 21 November 2011
January 2012

Terms of Reference

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National Research Foundation Young Emirati Researchers Prize

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 acknowledges that one of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. Young national researcher talents are key contributors to a flourishing knowledge-based society in the UAE. Working as a researcher is probably one of the most exciting jobs one can have, but researchers' careers are also highly demanding, requiring a lot of dedication. With the **Young Emirati Researchers Prize (YERP)** the NRF wants to acknowledge the effort young Emirati researchers and innovators have already made to contribute to the knowledge base in any scientific discipline.

YERP 2011 is a prize-based competition aimed at young Emirati researchers who have completed either a PhD or Master's by research in recent years. It is granted to Emiratis demonstrating outstanding research performance. At the same time, the prize aims to inspire the next generation of young Emiratis to pursue a research career.

II. Prize Objectives

The YERP 2011 is open to all disciplines and aims to:

- Honor outstanding young national talents in research.
- Encourage researchers to continue their contribution to building and enlarging a solid base of knowledgeable, capable and well-trained research knowledge workers in UAE.
- Encourage young people in the UAE to engage in a research career.

III. Prize Information

YERP 2011 is awarded to Emirati researchers and innovators who have recently completed postgraduate research studies. The Prize will be awarded on the basis of the nominees' dissertation/thesis.

The following Prize scheme applies:

Nominees	Research work	Prize Amount
Postgraduate nominees	PhD Thesis / Dissertation	AED 50,000
	Master by Research Thesis	AED 30,000

IV. Eligibility Conditions

IV.I For PhD Prize

Applicants must:

1. Be a UAE national citizen.
2. Be an early-stage researcher; PhD must have been awarded at any time in the three years prior to 1 September 2011.
3. Provide certified proof of award of PhD.
4. Applicants of all ages may apply.

IV.II For Masters by Research

Applicants must:

1. Be a UAE national citizen.
2. Be early-stage researchers; Masters by Research must have been awarded at any time in the three years prior to 1st September 2011.
3. Provide certified proof of award of the Masters by Research.
4. 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 YERP 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 EFRMA 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:

- **Final approved thesis / dissertation:** *mandatory*
A PDF copy of the thesis / dissertation must be submitted.
- **Curriculum Vitae** (max 2 pages): *mandatory*
a full CV including the nominee's scholarly biodata and any relevant refereed publications.
- **Letter of recommendation**(max 1 page): *mandatory*
a letter of recommendation from an independent referee (e.g. thesis supervisor, dissertation committee chair, etc.).
- **Statement of impact**(max 1 page): *mandatory*
a description of any outcomes generated from the thesis / dissertation and their impact.

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:

- Nature, relevance, and importance of the questions addressed in the thesis/dissertation.
- Quality of the analysis undertaken.
- Overall organization, readability and clarity of the thesis/dissertation.
- Potential impact of research findings, either in terms of real implementation, commercial or societal impact.
- Special merit will be given to nominees whose work is explicitly contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens of UAE or the advancement of the UAE as a knowledge-based society.

Proposals will be evaluated using electronic, postal or panel reviews by an international jury 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 jury's evaluation report.

VII. Prize Administration

Prize Notification: NRF will make the notification of the Prize or declination to the submitting individuals. A Prize Awarding Ceremony will be celebrated in early January 2012 (exact date to be announced in advance) and the selected nominees are expected to participate in this event.

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 nominee submission	21 November 2011
3. External evaluation of applications completed	22 December 2011
4. NRF sends notification on jury decision	2 January 2012
5. Prize Awarding Ceremony	Early January 2012