

**Research Grants Council
General Research Fund and Early Career Scheme**

Panel-specific Guidelines

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Division of Business in Sub-panels

1. The Engineering Panel and the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel have set up sub-panels to handle proposals in specific disciplines. Each sub-panel will be headed by a panel member as sub-panel chair. Sub-panel chairs are non-local academics in relevant research fields of the sub-panels. They are appointed by Research Grants Council Chairman in consultation with relevant Panel Chairmen.
2. The Engineering Panel is divided into the following two sub-panels:
 - Civil Engineering / Surveying / Building & Construction and Mechanical / Production / Industrial Engineering Sub-panel
 - Computing Science / Information Technology / Electrical / Electronic Engineering Sub-panel
3. The Humanities & Social Sciences Panel is divided into the following four sub-panels:
 - Psychology and Linguistics Sub-panel
 - Social and Behavioural Sciences Sub-panel
 - Humanities and Arts Sub-panel
 - Education Sub-panel

Panel-specific evaluation criteria of research proposals

Biology and Medicine Panel

4. The budget for the proposals in the field of Biology & Medicine is capped at \$1,600,000. Proposals costing more than \$1,600,000 will still be considered but they must be supported by strong justifications.
5. The Biology & Medicine Panel normally supports one full-time Research Assistant (RA) or equivalent only. If more than one full-time RA and/or staff above the RA level are requested, strong and detailed justifications should be provided.

Business Studies Panel

6. The Business Studies Panel considers it important for applicants to make proper disclosure in the application form about any groundwork or similar publications/projects that have been done.

Engineering Panel
Physical Sciences Panel

7. The Engineering Panel and Physical Sciences Panel adopt ballpark budgets during the proposal evaluation process to save time and efforts in budget deliberation. A funded proposal will normally be awarded with a fixed amount determined by panel score and project duration. The Physical Sciences Panel will also take into account the nature of the proposal, i.e. theoretical research or experimental research, to determine the amount. If the requested amount is lower than the pre-determined amount, then the requested amount will be funded.

8. The budget for the proposals in the field of Engineering is capped at \$1,600,000. Proposals costing more than \$1,600,000 will still be considered but they must be supported by strong justifications.

Humanities and Social Sciences Panel

9. The Panel will assess relief teacher expenses on a per-course basis and applicants should submit the expense item calculated on the same basis.

10. The Panel does not support items like data analysis software licences, reference books and printing which are reasonably expected to be provided by the universities.

11. It is noted there is an increasing demand from applicants for support on developing websites. Such websites, if approved for development, should be publicly accessible.

Panel-specific evaluation criteria for assessing progress / completion / concluding reports

Biology and Medicine Panel

12. The Biology and Medicine Panel considers that a maximum of 24 months may be allowed for Principal Investigators to update the project outcome status before the Panel revisits the project for the final rating.

Business Studies Panel

13. The Business Studies Panel considers that a maximum of 36 months

may be allowed for Principal Investigators to update the project outcome status before the Panel revisits the project for the final rating.

Engineering Panel

14. The Engineering Panel considers that a maximum of 24 months from completion report submission date may be allowed for Principal Investigators to update the project outcome status before the Panel revisits the project for the final rating.

Humanities and Social Sciences Panel

15. The Humanities and Social Sciences Panel expects that peer-reviewed research outputs and journal publications are predominantly the major type of research outputs. The Principal Investigators are expected to provide evidence of submission for project dissemination through reputable peer-reviewed outlets including article and manuscript, appropriate to the respective field(s) within 12 months from project end date, and provide evidence for submission of a book manuscript within 24 months. More time may be allowed for book publication.

Physical Sciences Panel

16. The Physical Sciences Panel considers that a maximum of six months may be allowed for Principal Investigators to update the project outcome status before the Panel revisits the project for the final rating.