

Guidelines for Research Grant Applicants

1 INTRODUCTION

The Sino-Pak Center for Artificial Intelligence (SPCAI), Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (PAF-IAST) invites applicants to submit research grant proposals for application-oriented AI projects.

2 GRANT AMOUNT

- Total fund allocated for research projects: ~PKR 40 million
- Maximum fund limit for each project: PKR 10 million

3 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Applicant: The Principal Investigator (PI) should be a faculty member of SPCAI/PAF-IAST. The co-applicant(s) can either be from academia or industry.
- Number of applications: An applicant can submit as many applications as s/he wants. However, only one research application will be funded if positively evaluated.
- Funding body: The application will be submitted via email to SPCAI in a single, searchable PDF document. The email address is info@spcai.paf-iaast.edu.pk.
- Language: The application must be submitted in English.
- Project description:
 - Abstract
 - Project description, including methodology
 - Description of the PI, co-PI(s), and all participating institutions
 - Description of tasks and responsibilities of every project member
 - Discussion on sustainability, possible follow-up project(s), the applicability of results, and dissemination
 - Timeline with activities and expected results and outcomes
 - Budget table
 - Intellectual Property (IP) agreement between all concerned parties
 - Letters of commitment from all participating institutions
 - The letter of commitment must include the following items:
 - Official letterhead of the institution
 - Project title
 - Planned period of the project
 - Signature of the management of the participating institution (not of the project coordinator)
 - If available, the stamp of the signing institution

4 VERIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

4.1 FORMAL CRITERIA:

- Timely submission
- Completeness of the application
- The funding amount requested must be within the limit of the fund allocation
- The industrial partnership is mandatory
- Maximum project duration of 1 year

4.2 CONTENT CRITERIA:

Evaluation of the project proposal will be conducted by two independent (inter-) national experts. The proposal will be evaluated using a scoring matrix (max. 100 points) according to the following criteria:

- Feasibility of the research project (20 points maximum)
- Plausibility of the scientific objective (20 points maximum)
- Contribution to the novelty in artificial intelligence/industrial impact (20 points maximum)
- Competence and expertise of the participating researchers (20 points maximum)
- Sustainability and plausibility of the described future cooperation perspective (20 points maximum)

5 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All proposals must be submitted on or before **April 25, 2022, at noon (AoE)**.