**Call for Applications: NSU Research Grants (2025-2026)**

**Due Date: 10 September 2025**

**Application Information**

North South University Conference Travel and Research Grants Committee (CTRGC) invites research proposals from full-time NSU faculty members, for the fiscal year 2025-2026 grant cycle. Research grants normally are considered “seed” grants to initiate research projects and, hopefully, in due course leverage extramural research funding for extended research opportunities. Hence, the grant award limit as stipulated in CTRGC policy is a standard BDT 7,50,000. However, per the directive of the Vice Chancellor, the limit for Senior Lecturers and Lecturers is set at BDT 5,00,000.

Proposals can be submitted for basic, applied (field or laboratory), or literature-based research as normally pursued in business and economics, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, health and life sciences, humanities, law, and the social sciences.

It is strongly recommended that applicants identify one or more research priorities that their research projects are intended to support. In general, the university authority prefers project proposals that support the following research priorities:

1. **Research meets some of the SDG goals**
2. No poverty
3. Zero hunger
4. Good health and well-being
5. Quality education
6. Gender equality
7. Clean water and sanitation
8. Affordable and clean energy
9. Decent work and economic growth
10. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
11. Reduced inequalities
12. Sustainable cities and communities
13. Responsible consumption and production
14. Climate action
15. Life below water
16. Life on land
17. Peace, justice and strong institutions
18. Partnerships for the goals
19. **Industry collaboration or application orientation**
20. **Intra- or inter-disciplinary collaboration**
21. **Patentable research**

Further, faculty applicants should also identify School-level priorities that their research proposal supports, as provided in the NSU Strategic Research Plan 2024-2028 [see the Strategic Research Plan 2024-2028; e-version accessible here: https://www.northsouth.edu/newassets/images/OR-NSU/nsu-strategic-research-plan-2024-2028.pdf], as follows:

**School Research Priorities: SBE**

* Developing a sustainable and proactive research culture
* Supporting faculty development for impactful research
* Promoting interdisciplinary research through partnerships and collaboration
* Adopting an ‘aggressive’ faculty-recruitment drive

**School Research Priorities: SEPS**

* “Cutting-edge” research in SEPS disciplines, especially in the fields of machine learning and data science, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, communication and signal processing, urban heritage and planning, biomedical physics, CFD, and computational and applied mathematics
* Interdisciplinary research to address critical and unique challenges of the society, such as waste materials in concrete production, biomedical engineering, high performance computing (HPC)
* Extended collaboration inclusive of local and international individuals as well as public and private agencies

**School Research Priorities: SHLS**

* Research responsive to one or more SDGs
* Research priorities as identified by the various departments [see the Strategic Research Plan 2024-2028; e-version accessible here: https://www.northsouth.edu/newassets /images/OR-NSU/nsu-strategic-research-plan-2024-2028.pdf]

**School Research Priorities: SHSS**

* Promotion of research and scholarship through collaborative interdisciplinary research (involving interested faculty members from across SHSS and other schools at NSU)
* Faculty research capacity-building through research workshops, monthly research talks, holding of conferences and seminars for free and productive academic exchanges, mentoring of junior faculty members by senior faculty members, etc.
* Actively seeking, competing and winning institutional (NSU), inter-institutional and extramural/external research grants
* Publications of research outputs in SCOPUS-indexed international Q1 and Q2 journals (SHSS sets the target number of 200 for 2024-2028)
* Creation of a faculty research expertise data bank at the School level

All things remaining equal, first-time applicants and applications having an inter-institutional collaborative component will be given priority. *A faculty on leave (sabbatical leave, study leave, extraordinary leave) is not eligible to apply.* Normally, each faculty member will be eligible for no more than one research grant per grant cycle. Exceptions to this rule may be granted only as authorized and approved by the Vice Chancellor. Such approval must account for the School Dean’s certification that the research project is feasible for completion within the project timeline while accounting for the applicant faculty member’s total assigned annual workload (inclusive of teaching, research and university/professional service). Further, per directive from the Vice Chancellor, any faculty awarded more than one research grant in a cycle must complete these *sequentially* not *concurrently* (disbursement therefore *sequential*, not concurrent).

Successful applicants will be awarded a research grant in an amount approved by NSU authority according to internal approval procedure (see OR-NSU Flow Chart for CTRGC CFA and Approval Process, URL: http://www.northsouth.edu/research-office/research-grant/).

Faculty are to submit the completed application in the prescribed electronic form (*see template provided by OR-NSU*) **by 10 September 2025,** to OR-NSU (email: mostafizur.rahman09@northsouth.edu). The applicant Principal Investigator should be sure to provide an electronic copy of the grant application to all co-investigators.

**Review Process**

OR-NSU assigns a code number to each research grant application. All applications will undergo scientific merit review by the School Scientific Review Committee (SRC). At the discretion of the School Dean and School SRC, external reviewers may be consulted for a merit review. Each School SRC shall review all research proposals from the respective school faculty for *scientific merit* and the *appropriateness of the itemized budget in relation to budget justification provided by the PI* *[Note:* ***All budget items must have a statement of justification****].* The School SRC is authorized to recommend approval, tentative approval with revision (requiring re-submittal and review for approval before submitting approved proposals to OR-NSU), or disapproval/rejection. A proposal score up to 100% is assigned, but all Schools have a passing/acceptable percentage score of 70%. Depending on the research protocol of the given proposal and other factors (e.g., inflationary costs associated with procurement of supplies and/or equipment, standardization of research assistant salaries, etc.), the School SRC may modify the proposed itemized budget. Budgets should not include honoraria or salary payments to principal investigators or co-investigators, including those participating from external collaborating institutions. Budgets also should not include requests for laptops, although software items are permissible. [Per IT Office policy, faculty are allowed only one computer, normally the allocated desktop model. However, in the case of SEPS or other faculty who are engaged in research involving high performance advanced computation methods and/or computer simulations, additional hardware may be allowable, subject to review of technical specifications from the School SRC and recommended approval from the IT Office.]

The NSU CTRGC, chaired by the Vice Chancellor, will review for prospective funding only those research proposals recommended for approval (short-listed) by the School SRCs. After CTRGC review, the Vice Chancellor, as chair of the committee, will submit the CTRGC’s meeting minutes, inclusive of the list of recommended research projects, to the Syndicate and Board of Trustees (BOT) for final approvals. Per approved BOT process, 50% disbursement of research grant funds may be made through the Finance & Accounts (F&A) office at the time of the Vice Chancellor’s approval of the CTRGC meeting minutes. The Director, OR-NSU, will provide due notice to faculty accordingly. The remainder of grant funds will be disbursed after BOT approval of the minutes or as authorized by the Vice Chancellor in consultation with the BOT.

All faculty are expected to comply with their scientific, ethical, and fiduciary obligations when conducting funded research and are to be mindful of governing NSU policies in relation to human subjects protections, animal care and use, biosafety and biosecurity, and research misconduct. Faculty grant recipients must adhere to (1) timely submittal of research completion reports to OR-NSU by the completion date provided by OR-NSU and (2) procedures expecting accurate and timely accounting of expenditures when requested by the F&A Office. Any extension to the completion date requires approval from the Director, OR-NSU. Any internal re-allocation of the approved budget also requires approval from the Director, OR-NSU.

It is expected that faculty presenting papers (not abstracts) at conferences and/or completing research and publishing research results supported by NSU research funds will acknowledge NSU research funding in the acknowledgement section of the published article, book chapter, and/or conference proceeding.

**TEMPLATE FOR NSU CTRG RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION (2025-2026)**

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| **OR-NSU Assigned Grant Application Code:** |  |

1. **Principal Investigator (PI)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name |  |
| Faculty Initial [block letters] |  |
| Designation |  |
| Department |  |
| Phone |  |
| Email |  |

1. **Title of Research Project**

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1. **Identify the Research Priority or Priorities to which this research project contributes:**

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1. **Describe what expected social impact your project has** (if applicable):

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1. **Have you applied for an NSU grant before?** [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

(If yes, state application date and result—approved for funding; not approved; research results published—yes or no. If yes, provide publication information for each awarded CTRGC grant)

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1. **NSU Co-investigators [Co-I]** (*if any; add cells as required*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Co-I 1 | Co-I 2 | Co-I 3 |
| Full Name |  |  |  |
| Faculty Initial  |  |  |  |
| Designation |  |  |  |
| Department |  |  |  |
| Phone |  |  |  |
| Email |  |  |  |

1. **Inter-institutional collaboration: External Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator** (if any): Identify investigator names, titles, affiliations, role/function in the proposed research and any matching NSU funding required or expected external funding supplementing NSU funds.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | PI-1 or Co-I 1 | Co-I 2 |
| Full Name |  |  |
| Designation/Title |  |  |
| Affiliations |  |  |
| Phone |  |  |
| Email |  |  |
| Role/Function |  |  |

Matching Funding Required or Expected (in BDT equivalent): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Place/facilities where the research will be conducted**

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1. **Type of research**

[ ]  Basic Research/ Science [ ]  Applied Research/ Science

[ ]  Literature-based [ ]  Experimental Development/ Innovation in Technology

1. **Proposal Type:** [ ]  New proposal [ ]  Continuation of previously approved proposal
2. **Expected time to complete the research proposed** (*Note:* *Duration cannot normally exceed one calendar year. Extensions are allowable only by separate application to the Director, OR-NSU, at least one month prior to the assigned completion date*):

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1. **Work Plan of the proposed research** (please use separate sheets as necessary for the information provided)
2. **Estimated total budget amount for the proposed research (Maximum 750,000 taka; Senior Lecturers and Lecturers maximum 500,000 taka)**. **Detail itemized budget components on separate sheets with appropriate statement justifying each item in the budget**. (Note: Any budget item for computing hardware must be cleared with Director, NSU IT Office, as part of need and/or assessment of technical specifications. Copy of the IT assessment is to be provided with the application.

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| **BDT:** |

 *[Note: All non-disposable items in budget remain NSU property (e.g., software, hardware, equipment) and, as appropriate to the item, are to have a property tag attached when procured. \*\*****Check here to certify any budgeted computing hardware has been need-assessed by NSU IT: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_; attach IT review recommended approval document]***

1. **How will the research results be disseminated? NSU authority prioritizes SCOPUS-indexed Q1 and Q2 ranked journals.**

[ ]  SCOPUS-indexed journal\* [ ]  Other acceptable indexed journal

[ ]  Research Monograph [ ]  Conference proceeding

[ ]  Book chapter [ ]  Book

\* Identify three SCOPUS-indexed or alternative discipline-recognized index journals you may consider as publication option for dissemination of research results;

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1. **Institutional Biosafety Clearance (explain any biosafety issues, if applicable)**

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1. **Ethical clearance (Check if applicable—if unsure, check with OR-NSU)**

[ ]  For Human subjects/ participants: Institutional Review Board (NSU IRB/ERC)

[ ]  For Animal model studies: Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (NSU IACUC)

1. Provide a complete proposal narrative consistent with your discipline's expectations, but including elements such as project aims/objectives, specification of research methods to be used (laboratory, field, statistical, etc.), justification for award in view of your school's and university's Research Strategy Priorities and department research targets (check with the School Research Coordinator if unsure), expected research project outcomes, whether there is need for ethical clearance (for human subjects/participants, review by NSU IRB/ERC; for animal studies, review by NSU IACUC, for biosafety, review by the NSU IBC).

\*\**The PI’s publication record should be included in an appendix. Also provide a brief bio-sketch of the PI and Co-Is (maximum 500 words each bio-sketch).*

1. Any queries concerning the grant application or proposal review process may be directed to OR-NSU (Mr. Mostafizur Rahman, Ext. 6465, or to the Director, Ext. 1070).
2. By signing below, I hereby confirm that I have thoroughly read the instructions (application information and review process), diligently checked all checkboxes, and ensure that the research proposal is devoid of any instances of plagiarism.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Signature: |  |  |
| Name:  |  |  |
| **Name & Signature of Principal Investigator** |  | **Date** |

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| **Submit the following documents via email to mostafizur.rahman09@northsouth.edu by 10 September 2025, including all Co-Investigators in email CC:**1. Completed CTRGC application template.2. Research proposal.3. Budget with justification.4. Work plan.5. Publication record of the Principal Investigator (PI) including DOI. Please mention which publications were generated from CTRGC grant.6. Bio-sketches of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I).7. Approval from the IT Department for computer or computing hardware (if included in the budget). |