AIU- Intramural Research Grant Report

July 15, 2025

Intramural Research Grant Committee

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1. Preamble:

As it strives to establish a base for excellence in basic and applied scientific research, AIU aims to create the necessary framework to guide a successful and productive research environment as mandated by the Strategic Plan (2022-2027) under Pillar II: Impactful Research. A major goal of this pillar is to stimulate campus-wide research activity. In parallel to the creation of the resource and regulatory infrastructure, AIU leadership moved to fund intramural research grants to support undergraduate student, junior and mid-career faculty research endeavors. These intramural grants will act as catalysts to entrench a culture of research at AIU, as well as aid in propelling research programs and creating preliminary data, attracting extra-mural funding in later stages.

At its inaugural form, this initiative includes three tiers of research grants:

i. Five undergraduate research grants with a maximum budget of EGP 50,000 and a duration of up to one calendar year

ii. Five junior faculty (Assistant Professors) research grants with a maximum budget of EGP 250,000 and a duration of up to two calendar years

iii. Three mid-career faculty (Associate Professors) research grants with a maximum budget of EGP 500,000 and a duration of up to two calendar years

Future consideration can be given to increasing the number of offered grants in addition to the budgets as the faculty body grows and in response to economic and financial changes. As well, in line with the commencement of graduate studies programs at AIU, graduate student grants may also be added to the offered programs. This document includes a proposal of the application process regulations and requirements, as well as the suggested mechanisms for evaluation and assessment. Proposed budget templates and evaluation rubrics can be found herein.

2. General Guidance of Operation:

The following set of guidelines provide an overview of the process of grant submission, review and administration. The next sections will include further details specific to each grant tier.

- The administration sets the date for accepting submissions of **NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS** for funding by the AIU Intramural Research Fund (IRF) in the second half of summer of every calendar year**.** The date will be set tentatively to August 1 of every year.
- Grant proposals along with the necessary supporting documentation/information will be submitted online through a dedicated submission portal to be announced and found on AIU website.
- The window for accepting submissions will extend for two months for faculty research grants, ending tentatively on 00:01 AM of October 1 of every year. **PROPOSALS RECEIVED BEYOND THESE DEADLINES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.
- A two-month turn-around time is the general expectation for the announcement of funding results
- All funded grants will be required to submit bi-annual progress reports for the duration of the project. A progress report submission portal will be instated every six months from the date of contractual agreement.
- Failure to comply with the progress report submission deadline requirements will result in immediate funding termination.
- All recipients of IRF funding are required to acknowledge the fund name and the grant number on any scientific outcome of the project including but not limited to journal publications, conference publications and presentations, workshop participation, and data presentation at any other venue.
- AIU Intellectual property management policy applies in full extent to any outcome of the research conducted under IRF funded proposals. It is incumbent on the project PI to disclose to the Research Support Office and the Higher Administration any circumstances or outcomes that might potentially require intellectual protection as soon as they become aware of them. Failure to disclose and take appropriate steps for intellectual property protection will be considered an infringement on AIU rights.
- New prototypes, minor equipment, procedures, reagents, methods, or other forms of utilizable resources purchased, secured, or developed during the work funded by IRF will be automatically transferred to be AIU property following the conclusion of the project.

3. Intramural Student Research Grants:

The call aims to build research capacity among undergraduate students in a friendly and supportive environment. Submissions from individual students or teams are welcome.

3.1.   Themes:
- Health
- Computer sciences and AI applications
- Engineering applications
- Water/waste mangement
- Green and renewable energy
- Business applications
- Arts, architecture and design
- Media

3.2.   Project funding and duration:

A total of 50000 EGP can be requested per project, for up to 12 months

3.3.   Eligibility criteria:
- The principal student investigator and all team members must be curently enrolled AIU students.
- Each project must have an academic supervisor who is an AIU full time or part time faculty -member.
- Final year students are not eligible to apply as principal student investigators but can still participate as team members, **unless only when considering both *the project timeline* and *the deadline for submitting the final project report* are no later than the 15th week on the Spring semester academic calendar.**
- Priority will be given to projects with goals serving AIU and the immediate community.
- Priority will be given to interdisciplinary teams and projects
- Priority will be given to students who have previously participated in any AIU student research program.

3.4.   Project management:
- The funding will be provided as a lumpsum upon the signature of the contract.
- The principal student investigator will have to submit a mid-point report after 6 months approved by the academic supervisor and a final report at the conclusion of the project. The final report will include a financial report approved by the AIU administrator in charge of the implementation of the project.
- Failure to show progress in the midpoint report without proper justification will lead to project termination.

3.5. Grant proposal template:

AIU-Intramural Student Research Grants (ISRG)

Cover page

Project title (English)		
Project title (Arabic)		
Principal student investigator (PI) contact details	Name: ID: AIU email address: Phone number:	
Academic Supervisor's contact details	Name: Affiliation: AIU email address: Phone number:	
Team members contact details (please add rows as needed)	Name: ID: Program: AIU email address:	
Total budget requested (EGP)		
Project duration (months)		
Other partners (if any):		
Signatures	Student PI Name Signature Date	Academic supervisor Name Signature Date

Project sections

Section one (half a page maximum)

Project title:

Project summary:

Section two (1 page maximum)

Introduction

Objectives

Section three (1 page maximum)

Methods

Timeline

Section four (half a page maximum)

Expected outcomes

Section five (1 page maximum)

Ethical considerations

References

Section six

Budget

Budget Item	Permissible Range (%)	Requested sum
Materials & Supplies	30% - 50%	
Local Transport	5% - 15%	
Workshops/Training	10% - 20%	
Printing & Documentation	5% - 10%	
Equipment Rental	10% - 20%	
Contingency	5% - 10%	

Examples of acceptable budget items:

Budget Item	Suggested Range (%)	Example Expenses
Materials & Supplies	30% - 50%	Lab chemicals, books, software, art supplies, prototyping materials
Local Transport	5% - 15%	Bus/train tickets, fuel for field visits (within city/campus)
Workshops/Training	10% - 20%	Training fees, workshop materials, venue rental
Printing & Documentation	5% - 10%	Posters, reports, brochures, thesis printing
Equipment Rental	10% - 20%	Cameras, lab devices, tools (if not provided by university)
Contingency	5% - 10%	Unplanned costs (always include this!)

4. Intramural Faculty Research Grants:

This call aims to encourage junior and mid-career AIU faculty build their independent research programs and generate preliminary data that would support their applications for extra-mural funding

4.1.   General Themes & Focus Areas:

A. *Smart Healthcare Ecosystems*

Focus Areas:

- Comprehensive Health Modeling of the AIU Community and Surrounding Environment

- Epidemiology and Big Data Analytics

- AI-driven diagnostics / treatment planning

- IoT-enabled rehabilitation and remote monitoring

- ML-enabled Novel Drug target Identification & Drug Design

- Smart hospital, drug delivery systems, and drug repurposing approaches

B. *Sustainable / Resilient Urban Planning*

Focus Areas:

- Human computer interaction and VR systems

- Eco friendly urban planning addressing the surrounding environment needs

- Emotional arts and interior architecture

- Smart and artistic lighting / acoustic strategies

- Sustainable Urban Utility Management (Waste, Energy, and Transportation, Management)

C. *Digital Twin Systems Engineering for Industry*

Focus Areas:

- AI edge devices for low-resource applications

- Quantum computing technologies

- IoT and smart supply chain

- Green and sustainable logistics

- Metaverse and Immersive Marketing

D. *Biotechnology*

Focus Areas:

- Harnessing the biosphere of the surrounding environment

- Smart Agriculture Solutions

- Tissue engineering and organ regeneration

- Nano biotechnology and nano medicine

- Environmental biotechnology and sustainability

- Mathematical biology and epidemiological modeling

E. *Other*

The committee may consider projects on other topics based on their merit and innovation.

4.2. Project funding and duration:

For Assistant Professors, up to EGP 250,000 for a total duration up to two calendar years

For Associate Professors, up to EGP 500,000 for a total duration up to two calendar years

4.3. Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants should be full time AIU faculty in professorial ranks, specifically assistant and associate professors
- Priority will be given to AIU faculty without prior IRF funding or extra-mural funding while in AIU tenure
- Research proposals including investigations on experimental animals, animals tissues, animal cells, human subjects, human tissues, human cells, clinical interventions, clinical products, and/or biological products or material should seek the relevant ethical approval
- Priority will be given to research proposals using standardized and clear preparation guidelines, such as those that can be found in **the EQUATOR network site** at http://www.equator-network.org/ where you can select the checklist that fits your study design. These checklists may guide you in writing your proposal and increase the chances that your findings become publishable.
- *New applications* **for PIs who received prior IRF funding** <u>will not</u> be *co*nsidered for review if the PI has not shown *evidence of submission for extramural* funding after two years of IRF funding, irrespective of the research project and regardless of whether the outcome was positive or negative. Records of submissions may be subject to review.
- A **final report** for the last funded grant is required from each PI that includes the research outcome (findings/publications, papers under review, international presentations...). PIs who do not submit final report will not be allowed to proceed with new application submission. In order for a final report to be approved, the PI must have shown significant progress towards the stated goals, and proven accomplishments in terms of outcomes and publications.
- *New applications* **for PIs who received prior IRF funding but have not completed two years will only be considered if the total budget of all proposals does not exceed EGP 250,000 or EGP 500,000 for assistant or associate professors, respectively.**

4.4. Project management:

- The funding will be provided as a lumpsum upon the signature of the contract.
- The principal student investigator will have to submit a bi-annual report every six months to be reviewed and approved by the Research Projects Committee and a final report at the conclusion of the project. The final report will include a financial report approved by the AIU administrator in charge of the implementation of the project.
- Failure to show progress in the bi-annual reports without proper justification will lead to project termination.

4.5. Grant proposal template:

Alamein International University Intramural Fund: Proposal Application Form
Cover Page

Title of the Project (English):	
Title of the Project (Arabic):	
Name of Applicant:	
Position:	
Faculty/ program:	
Address:	
Duration (up to 24 months):	
Date of Submission:	
Estimated Total budget:	
External cooperation (if applicable)	

Project Area (*Please check one only***):**

- **Information technology:**

  Artificial intelligence
  Cyber security
  Internet of things
  Big data
  Intelligent systems (housing)
  Others

- **Health & medical sciences:**

  Precision medicine
  Regenerative medicine
  Dental sciences
  Pharmacy & drug development
  Public health
  Physical medicine & rehabilitation
  Targeted therapy
  Others

- **Engineering:**

  - *New and renewable energy*
  - *Smart roads and transportation*
  - *Urban design & new cities development*
  - *Architecture*
  - *Others*

- **Arts & design**

  Fashion design
  Interior design
  Others

- **Environmental sciences & Climate changes**

  Sustainable development
  Climate mitigation
  Costal pollution
  Others

- **Business administration:**

  Finance
  Marketing
  Business management
  Others

Keywords:

Part I: The Research Proposal

1. English Summary: *it should describe the proposed research, objectives, methodology, expected outcomes and economic potentials impact, if any **(one page only).***

2. Arabic Summary: *is an understandable translation of the English summary **(one page only).***

3. Problem Definition: *Describe the problem you are going to tackle in the project, and explain how the proposed would help in solving **(one page only).***

4. Objectives: *please describe the main and specific objectives **(half page only).***

5. Outcomes and Impact: *List your expected project's outputs (typically tangible products, such as know-how (patent), product(s), prototype, product(s) or any other specific, clear, and measurable outputs. **(3 pages maximum).***

6. Methodology: *Describe how your project will be implemented, including your general scientific approach, activities, methods, and project inputs. **(four pages maximum).***

This section should also details the available and requested facilities (if applicable) that would be essential for implementation of the work. Any work that would be conducted outside AIU research facilities should be clarified and committed by the partner.

7. Timeframe: *please provide a detailed timeframe of your work given that the maximum duration is 24 months.*

Projects to be conducted through shorter periods are acceptable so far mimicking the methodology and the expected outcomes.

8. Key References: *List relevant references. **(one page maximum).***

Part II: The Research Team

1. Research team Table (one page)

Complete the table provided hereafter (Annex 1).

2. Biography (3 pages maximum)

Biographies of the PI, Co-PI and team members (Annex 2).

Part III: Budget

1- Budget justification (two pages maximum)
In this section please justify the requested budget breakdown and justify as needed to conduct the work.

2- Budget breakdown
Please use the format provided below (annex.3)

*Generally, kindly note that the submitted proposal should consider the following rules:

- All sections to be written in **English** EXCEPT for the Arabic summary (and in limited cases some auxiliary documents if needed)
- The **font** allowed is **Times New Roman size 12**
- **Spacing** is only **1.5**
- *Please restrict to the **page size and margins** of this form*
- *All endorsement letters should be signed and stamped on **officially headed papers***

Annex 1_REASERCH TEAM

Team member	Name in English	Name in Arabic	Faculty/ program	Position / Title & Specialty	Intended days/week (max 2)	% of time allocated	National ID No. (الرقم القومى)	Signature
PI								
Co- PI								
Researcher 1								
Researcher 2								
Technical 1								
Technical 1								

Annex 2_ CV FORM

1. Basic Information		
Full Name in Arabic:	Full name in English:	
Date of Birth:		
National ID		
Last University Degree	Faculty, University, Country	Graduation Date / year
Title:	Field of specialization:	
Affiliation:		
Current Position:		
Contact Information: Mobile Phone: Fax: E-mail:		
2. Scientific Achievements (if available)		
Publications: *Authors (underline your name), year, title, Journal, vol. and pages*		
1		
2		
3		
Previous/ running projects:		
Awards:		

Annex 3_BUDGET

Budget Item	Recommended Range (%)	Requested Sum
Local Travel & Transport	**5% - 10%**	
Accommodation	5% - 10%	
Equipment & Materials	**25% - 40%**	
Consumables & Supplies	10% - 15%	
Training & Workshops	**25% - 35%**	
Administrative Costs	5% - 10%	
Contingency	5% - 10%	

Examples of accepted budget items:

Budget Item	Recommended Range (%)	Notes
Local Travel & Transport	**5% - 10%**	Taxis, fuel, or domestic transport.
Accommodation	5% - 10%	Only if overnight stays are needed (e.g., for workshops).
Equipment & Materials	**25% - 40%**	Increased to absorb unused travel funds (tools, software, devices).
Consumables & Supplies	10% - 15%	Office supplies, printing, etc.
Training & Workshops	**25% - 35%**	Venues, trainers, materials (critical if capacity-building is key).
Administrative Costs	5% - 10%	Utilities, communications, documentation.
Contingency	5% - 10%	Mandatory buffer for surprises.

Endorsement letter of the PI faculty dean/ program director

I herein endorse the application of ----- (title/ name/ position) ---- entitled -----(title of the project) to the current call of AIU-Intramural Fund: Research Project.

By this endorsement I clarify that the time allocated for the current project by himself has no conflict with his work load

Endorsement letter from AIU Research & Innovation Hub

I herein confirm that the facilities needed for the research project entitled -----(title of the project) submitted by ----- (title/ name/ position)---- to the current call of AIU-Intramural Fund: Research Project, are available and the work could be conducted in the central facility lab.

Endorsement letter from non-AIU partners

On behalf of --- (HE institution/ university/ company)----, I herein confirm that we are willing to be a partner in the research project entitled -----(title of the project) submitted by ----- (title/ name/ position)---- to the current call of AIU-Intramural Fund: Research Project.

We will contribute to the work through (please list the activities):

1-

2-

3-

5. Grant Proposal Review and Evaluation Process:

5.1. Initial review process

1. An administrative committee is formed to check all submitted applications.

2. The scope of work of the administrative committee is to complete a review Checklist_A for all student research projects, and a review Checklist_B for all research projects.

3. Checklists will ensure that all requirements have been met (following the required proposal templates and attaching all necessary documents).

4. Submitted applications that do not meet the requirements are excluded.

5. The administrative committee reports to the Research Projects Committee (RPC) a list of all projects that passed the initial screening, and those who are rejected for not fulfilling the checklist.

6. The RPC notifies both the nominated projects and the rejected ones (Rejected projects will receive an email explaining the reasons for rejection).

5.2. Evaluation mechanism

The RPC follows the following process during evaluation:

5.2.1. Student Research Projects

1. Student research projects are grouped according to topics and specializations by the RPC members.

2. The RPC may recruit faculty members from inside or outside the University (according to specialization) in the presentation and discussion committees.

3. All projects will give a short presentation to include the following: the aims and objectives of the project, the methods adopted used to complete the research, the project impact (scientific – societal – economical …etc.).

4. After the presentations, all projects will be evaluated according to Rubric_A, the winners are announced.

5. The RPC submits a report announcing the accepted projects for funding to AIU Vice President.

6. The RPC has the right to withhold funding opportunities if some applicants fail to meet the selection criteria.

5.2.2. Faculty Research Projects

1. Research projects are grouped according to topic/specialization/track by the RPC members.

2. The RPC may recruit faculty members from inside or outside the University (according to specialization) to serve on the review board.

3. Each project will be evaluated through a review committee consisting of three-board members as follows:-

   - One member from the RPC

   - One internal member from AIU (according to the specialization)

   - One external member (according to the specialization)

4. Each committee member will fulfill an evaluation form (Rubric_B). Thus, each project will receive three different evaluations, one from each member of the evaluation committee.

5. Any project that does not meet the minimum score (60%) in two evaluations, will be excluded.

6. Projects that meet the minimum score in two or more evaluations will get the average of the three evaluation scores.

7. The RPC may, if necessary, request a written response (rebuttal) or an in-person meeting with the project PI (Principal Investigator) to clarify some technical aspects. In case the PI does not respond, the project will be excluded.

8. Assessed projects in each track are ranked after thorough discussion among all RPC members to select the projects awarded funding (according to the application requirements and announced funding opportunities).

9. The RPC might recommend withholding some funding amount if not enough applicants meet the admission criteria.

10. PIs, supervisors, or research team members of projects considered in a given cycle must recuse themselves from the discussion/arbitration committees of projects in this cycle.

Checklist A:

- Active Student member enrollment
- Project PI is not in final year
- A letter of commitment from an AIU faculty supervisor
- A letter of support from the Research and Innovation Hub in case respective resources and equipment use is required or expected (Optional)
- Evidence of prior participation in AIU student research initiatives (Optional)

Checklist B:

- Full time AIU faculty
- Academic Superior endorsement letter
- Research and Innovation Hub endorsement letter (if needed)
- Ethical approval (if needed)
- Previous final report if applying for a second project
- Proof of application to extra-mural funding if applying for a second project

Rubric_A   Students Research

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Score
Relevance to Scope (10 Pts.)	Fully aligns with themes of science & technology. **10 Pts.**	Mostly aligns, with minor deviations. **8 Pts.**	Partially aligns, with significant deviations. **5 Pts.**	Does not align with the themes. **2 Pt.**	
Presentation (20 Pts.)	Clear, engaging, and well-organized; effectively communicates key points. **20 Pts.**	Clear and organized; communicates key points well. **15 Pts.**	Somewhat clear; communicates most key points. **10 Pts.**	Unclear and disorganized; fails to communicate key points. **5 Pts.**	
Scientific and Technical Merit (20 Pts.)	Highly original and innovative; clear and feasible objectives; robust methodology. **20 Pts.**	Original and innovative; clear objectives; sound methodology. **15 Pts.**	Some originality; objectives and methodology need improvement. **10 Pts.**	Lacks originality; unclear objectives; weak methodology. **5 Pts.**	
Budget & Resource Allocation (20 Pts.)	Well-justified budget; efficient use of resources. **20 Pts.**	Justified budget; good use of resources. **15 Pts.**	Somewhat justified budget; moderate use of resources. **10 Pts.**	Unjustified budget; poor use of resources. **5 Pts.**	
Impact and Significance (20 Pts.)	Significant impact; addresses critical problems; strong potential for commercialization. **20 Pts.**	Good impact; addresses important problems; some potential. **15 Pts.**	Moderate potential for impact; addresses some problems; limited potential for commercialization. **10 Pts.**	Low impact; does not address significant problems; no potential for commercialization. **5 Pts.**	
Ethical Considerations and Compliance (10 Pts.)	Fully adheres to ethical standards; comprehensive mitigation strategies. **10 Pts.**	Adheres to ethical standards; mitigation strategies. **8 Pts.**	Partially adheres to ethical standards; some mitigation strategies. **5 Pts.**	Does not adhere to ethical standards; no mitigation strategies. **2 Pts.**	
Total (100)					

Rubric_B

Research Projects

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Score
Relevance to Scope (10 Pts.)	Fully aligns with themes of science & technology. **10 Pts.**	Mostly aligns, with minor deviations. **8 Pts.**	Partially aligns, with significant deviations. **5 Pts.**	Does not align with the themes. **2 Pt.**	
Interdisciplinary Approach (20 Pts.)	Integrate multiple disciplines relevant to the scope. **20 Pts.**	Integrate multiple disciplines mostly relevant to the scope. **15 Pts.**	Integrate multiple disciplines not really relevant to the scope. **10 Pts.**	Does not integrate multiple disciplines. **5 Pts.**	
Scientific and Technical Merit (20 Pts.)	Highly innovative; original and clear and feasible objectives; robust methodology. **20 Pts.**	Original and innovative; clear objectives; sound methodology. **15 Pts.**	Some originality; objectives and methodology need improvement. **10 Pts.**	Lacks originality; unclear objectives; weak methodology. **5 Pts.**	
Budget & Resource Allocation (20 Pts.)	Well-justified budget; efficient use of resources. **20 Pts.**	Justified budget; good use of resources. **15 Pts.**	Somewhat justified budget; moderate use of resources. **10 Pts.**	Unjustified budget; poor use of resources. **5 Pts.**	
Impact and Significance (10 Pts.)	Significant impact; addresses critical problems; strong potential for commercialization. **10 Pts.**	Good impact; addresses important problems; some commercialization potential. **8 Pts.**	Moderate potential impact; addresses some problems; limited potential for commercialization. **5 Pts.**	Low impact; does not address significant problems; no potential for commercialization. **2 Pts.**	
Research Team and Expertise (10 Pts.)	Highly qualified team with strong track record; excellent collaboration. **10 Pts.**	Qualified team with good track record; good collaboration. **8 Pts.**	Adequately qualified team; some collaboration. **5 Pts.**	Poorly qualified team; no collaboration. **2 Pts.**	
Ethical Considerations and Compliance (10 Pts.)	Fully adheres to ethical standards; comprehensive mitigation strategies. **10 Pts.**	Adheres to ethical standards; mitigation strategies. **8 Pts.**	Partially adheres to ethical standards; some mitigation strategies. **5 Pts.**	Does not adhere to ethical standards; no mitigation strategies. **2 Pts.**	
				Total (100)	

Examiner Name   Affiliation   Signature