



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE GRANT**

#### **1. What is meant by the SSM Research and Development Grant?**

The SSM Research and Development Grant is a strategic initiative implemented pursuant to section 17(f) of the Companies Commission of Malaysia Act 2001 (Act 614) to support the conduct of research related to business and corporate matters that are aligned with the mandate, functions and strategic priorities of the SSM.

#### **2. What are the main objectives of this grant?**

The grant aims to support policy and regulatory framework enhancements, improve compliance levels, strengthen corporate governance and enhance the effectiveness of SSM's service delivery.

#### **3. Is this grant purely academic in nature?**

No. The grant places emphasis on high-impact research, including policy research, innovation initiatives, and prototype development.

## **B. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

### **1. Who is eligible to apply for this grant?**

Applications are open to Public Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTA), Private Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTs), Ministries, Government Agencies, Statutory Bodies, Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLICs), Government-Linked Companies (GLCs), the private sector, as well as SSM employees.

### **2. Are collaborative applications encouraged?**

Collaborative applications involving institutions, the public sector and the private sector are strongly encouraged

### **3. Are individual applications allowed?**

Applications must be submitted under the name of an organisation or institution. However, SSM employees may apply in their individual capacity, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

### **4. What are the requirements for appointment as a Lead Researcher?**

The Lead Researcher must be a Malaysian citizen and meet the prescribed eligibility requirements.

### **5. Are international research organisations allowed to apply for this grant?**

At present, international research organisations are not eligible to apply for this grant.

## **C. RESEARCH SCOPE AND FOCUS**

### **1. What research scope is eligible for funding?**

The scope of research eligible for funding includes studies related to corporate governance, legal compliance, accounting and auditing, digital transformation, entrepreneurship, as well as policy studies relating to the functions, roles and responsibilities of SSM.

### **2. What are the focus areas of the research and development scope for this grant?**

The research and development scope for this grant is divided into two (2) focus areas, namely the general focus and priority focus.

### **3. What are the priority research focus areas for this grant?**

Priority is given to the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based on pilot solutions for enforcement, compliance and support for corporate intermediaries, auditors and company directors, as well as studies examining the relationship between legal compliance and corporate governance with company performance.

### **4. May applicants choose to submit proposals under the general focus or priority focus?**

Applicants may submit proposals under both the general focus and priority focus or select one (1) that best aligns with the objectives of the proposed study, provided that the proposal falls within the prescribed research scope. However, proposals submitted under the priority focus will be given preferential consideration if they demonstrate a high level of alignment with SSM's current strategic needs.

## **D. PROJECT DURATION AND FUNDING**

### **1. What is the duration of the research project?**

The research project duration ranges from one (1) to 12 months, depending on the scope and feasibility of the study.

### **2. When will the implementation of the research project commence and how should the milestone chart be prepared?**

The implementation of the research project shall commence only upon approval and formal notification of the decision by SSM and is expected to be around the third quarter of 2026. Accordingly, applicants are required to align the project commencement and prepare the milestone chart starting from the third quarter of 2026 onwards.

### **3. What is the maximum funding ceiling?**

The maximum funding ceiling is RM100,000 per research project.

### **4. How is the grant disbursement carried out?**

Grant disbursement will be made in stages based on the achievement of agreed project milestones.

## **E. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **1. What is the procedure for applying for this grant?**

Applicants may download the application form from SSM's official portal at [www.ssm.com.my](http://www.ssm.com.my). Completed applications must be submitted via email to the SSM Research and Development Grant Secretariat at [rndfund@ssm.com.my](mailto:rndfund@ssm.com.my).

### **2. Is an extension to the application deadline allowed?**

Requests for extensions of the application submission deadline are not allowed.

### **3. May applications be submitted in Bahasa Melayu or English?**

Applications may be submitted either in Bahasa Melayu or English only.

## **F. EVALUATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

### **1. Who evaluates the grant applications?**

Applications will be evaluated by the SSM Research and Development Grant Evaluation Committee (JNGP).

### **2. Who approves the grant applications?**

Final approval of grant applications will be decided at the SSM Management Meeting.

### **3. What are the main evaluation criteria?**

Evaluation is based on alignment with SSM's vision and strategic thrusts, methodological quality, research impact, team capability and budget justification.

### **4. Are researchers required to present the research proposal?**

The research proposal will only be presented where necessary for the purpose of a more detailed evaluation. Researchers will be informed accordingly should such a requirement arise.

## **G. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

### **1. Are progress reports required?**

Submission of progress reports and a final report is mandatory within the prescribed timelines.

### **2. When is the final report required to be submitted?**

The final report must be submitted within one (1) month after the completion of the project.

### **3. Can the project scope or duration be amended?**

Any amendments to the project scope or duration must be submitted to the secretariat via email and are subject to approval by the SSM Management Meeting.

## **H. FUND MANAGEMENT AND ETHICS**

### **1. What expenditures are allowable?**

Allowable expenditures include research materials, allowances for part-time researchers, enumerators and research assistants, professional services, publication of research outputs, printing, field testing costs, copyright or intellectual property registration fees, purchase of fixed assets and official domestic travel related to the research project.

### **2. Will SSM carry out audit inspections?**

SSM reserves the right to carry out audits and financial monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

### **3. What are the principles governing the implementation of this research?**

Research must be conducted ethically, with integrity and in compliance with prescribed guidelines.

## **I. RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND TERMINATION**

### **1. What is the ownership status of the research outcomes upon completion of the project?**

Research outcomes shall be jointly owned by SSM and the research institution, subject to the terms of the agreement.

### **2. May the SSM R&D Grant be terminated in the event of any non-compliance or other misconduct?**

The grant may be terminated in the event of non-compliance, misappropriation, or failure to achieve the project objectives.

### **3. If an applicant is offered the grant, is withdrawal from proceeding with the project permitted?**

No. Withdrawal after the project has been approved by SSM is not permitted. Should such a situation arise, the researcher and the related institution may be subject to appropriate action by SSM.

## **J. ENQUIRIES**

### **1. Who can be contacted for further enquiries?**

Any further enquiries may be directed to the SSM Research and Development Grant Secretariat via email at: [rndfund@ssm.com.my](mailto:rndfund@ssm.com.my) only.