



Thunchath Ezhuthachan
Malayalam University

Policy on Seed Money Grant



Introduction

Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University has a firm stand in its policy on research and innovation. The university is dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to advance the frontiers of knowledge. The university has a firm commitment to research excellence. It also places an emphasis on cultivating a vibrant research ecosystem. Through its research and innovational practices, the university surpasses disciplinary boundaries to address societal challenges. The university, through its research practices, encourages collaboration across diverse domains. Malayalam University hosts eleven schools with twelve programmes, most of which are in interdisciplinary stature. The academic community at the university is driven holistically by a shared passion to push the boundaries of knowledge and thus, makes significant contributions to the society.

Malayalam University, since its inception, continues consistent resource investment and supports and empowers faculty, researchers and students in their pursuit to excellence in research. In order to enrich the interdisciplinary research opportunities, Malayalam University encourages its faculty to conduct research and other innovative projects through blending pristine ideas in multiple domains, thriving creativity and thus opening new avenues of knowledge creation.

The financial support in research and innovations through seed money and project funding provided by Malayalam University, stands as the evidence for the commitment to encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches of scholarly inquiry and research excellence. The university thus cultivates creative intervention, intellectual curiosity and expands the knowledge boundary.

Aim of the Seed Money Grant:

The seed money grant provided by the Malayalam University is designed to pursue cutting-edge innovational practices by the faculty and researchers. Fostering interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration, the aim of the seed money grant

The grant provided by Malayalam University is strategically designed to empower researchers and scholars across disciplines in their pursuit of cutting-edge research endeavors. With a focus on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and addressing pressing societal challenges, the aim of the grant is multifaceted:

Augment the knowledge status of Malayalam: Malayalam, given the status of classical language, needs to be cherished through new knowledge creation in various academic domains. By providing grant to generate knowledge through research in science and social sciences disciplines, the knowledge status of the regional language is updated and improved. Books on various academic disciplines can be published as part of the seed money grant.

Facilitate Research Excellence: Another aim of the seed money grant is to enable the faculty to conduct high-quality, innovative interdisciplinary research to explore and contribute to the advancement of knowledge resources. Moreover creative contribution including making visual documentaries, short films etc. also are given high priority.

Promote interdisciplinary Collaboration: The grant seeks to assist partnerships and interactions among researchers and faculty from various domains of knowledge. The grant motivates the faculty to undertake research that promotes innovative approaches to traditional cultural systems.

Address Societal Challenges: Any research should attempt to address societal challenges and contribute to the enhancement of local, national and regional communities. The grant aims to provide strong support in policy developments and application orientation, in relation to health index, women and child issues, water conservation and management, developmental indices, culture and heritage, literature, media, film etc. The aim is to convert intellectual intangible resources into making meaningful and tangible impacts on society.

Promote Research Capacity Building: The grant attempts to promote research capacity building by providing support to early-career researchers and facilitating access to resources and infrastructure. The next generation researchers and scholars need nurturing and the objective of the grant is to create sustainable ecosystem of studies and research that flourish on interdisciplinary collaboration, multidisciplinary corporation and research innovation.

Thus, aligning with the vision, mission and values of Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, the grant aims to empower young researchers and scholars to pursue a bright path in research and innovation transcending disciplinary boundaries with specific research schema and foster multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration in creating new knowledge. It also inspires the researchers to undertake ambitious research projects.

Initial seed money grants: Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, from its establishment had focused on innovative programmes and interdisciplinary courses. In its

initial years, the university gave grant to faculties for interdisciplinary research and innovative practices. A project named Suvarnarekha was approved and seed money grant was provided to teachers to create documentaries on eminent literary personalities, thus, blending the discipline of literature and film studies.

Nature of the Grant: The grant provides research endeavors in new disciplines. The flexible funding and approval are given on emerging research areas and disciplines. Moreover, the researches that correlate with the regional and local culture and the vision and mission of the university are given priority in the grant. The university aims to promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches in giving the grant. The university also considers innovation and creativity in submitted research proposals to approve the seed money grant. By providing the resources and support to faculties to undertake researches in the new and innovative areas, the grant aims to push the boundaries of knowledge.

Procedure of the grant: Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University has a fixed procedure for granting seed money to the faculty in various schools in the university. A committee has been constituted in the University for approving the project. The university invites proposals from the permanent faculties. The committee including subject experts in the areas concerned conducts the scrutiny of the proposals. After considering the criteria and nature of the projects, the committee publishes the list of proposals approved after scrutiny. The proposals are then sent to the concerned Faculty Deans for approval. Those approved proposals reverted by the Deans are in turn accepted by the university for conducting research.