



المجلس العربي
للعلوم الاجتماعية

Arab Council
for the Social Sciences
Conseil Arabe
pour les Sciences Sociales

Research Grants Program

Cycle 10 (2025-2027)

“Rethinking Development in the Arab Region”

Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

If I have not yet obtained my PhD degree at the time of application, can I still apply to the Research Grants Program?

Principal investigators must have obtained their PhD degree before January 2025.

As a holder of an MA degree, can I apply as part of a research team?

Yes, MA holders can be part of the research team, collectives and institutions.

Will the ACSS Research Grants Program only fund projects that implement the research within the Arab region?

Yes and no. Proposals that focus predominantly on locations in the Arab region are encouraged. Proposals suggesting comparative research between the Arab region and elsewhere are welcome. However, the majority of the grant funds should go towards covering the research costs in the Arab region.

Does the ACSS Research Grants Program have geographical restrictions within the Arab region?

No. The ACSS Research Grants Program funds research in any part of the Arab region (defined as the countries that are members of the League of Arab States) as well as in multiple sites simultaneously within the region.

Am I eligible to apply if I have already benefited from a grant from the ACSS?

ACSS grantees (principal and co-investigators) who have benefited previously from a grant from the ACSS are only eligible to apply after one year from the date of the closure of their grant. For example, if you were awarded a grant and the contract was closed in July 2024, you are eligible to apply.

Am I eligible to apply to the Research Grants Program if I am from an Arab country but 1) not “Arab” or 2) do not hold the citizenship of an Arab country?

For Individual Researchers:

In the first instance, yes, the ACSS welcomes proposals from 1) researchers who are from an Arab country¹ and currently residing in an Arab country, even if they are not regarded as “Arab” (by others or

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

themselves). In the second instance, yes, the ACSS welcomes proposals from individuals who are 2) long-term residents of an Arab country (employed since at least five years in an institution based in the Arab region, have produced academic work on the region, and will continue to reside and engage with the region in the foreseeable future), 3) refugees and stateless individuals from Arab countries who are currently residing in the Arab region.

For Research Teams

At least two members of the team, including the team leader/principal investigator, must be 1) citizens of an Arab country currently residing in an Arab country, or 2) long-term residents of an Arab country. They may also be 3) refugees or stateless individuals from Arab countries, who are currently residing in the Arab region. The remaining two members may include Arabs in the diaspora or non-Arabs.

For Collectives:

The collective must be based in the Arab region. It must also demonstrate clear future plans to operate in the region. At least two members of the collective, including the principal investigator, must be 1) citizens/nationals currently residing in an Arab country, or 2) long-term residents of an Arab country who are based in the Arab region. They may also be 3) refugees or stateless individuals from Arab countries, who are currently residing in the Arab region. The remaining two members may include Arabs in the diaspora or non-Arabs.

For Institutions:

The institution must be based in the Arab region regardless of its original registration status. The institution's principal investigator and all co-investigators in the project must be 1) citizens/nationals currently residing in an Arab country or 2) long-term residents of an Arab country and must be based in the Arab region. They may also be 3) refugees or stateless individuals from Arab countries, who are currently residing in the Arab region

If I am applying for an institutional grant, can the institution be non-Arab or registered outside the Arab region?

No, the institution must be based in the Arab region. The registration, however, can be in a non-Arab country provided that the institution has a legal presence in an Arab country. This legal presence can be a registration document or branch registration or notice or any type of registration that is formally

recognized in the country in which the institution is based. Branches of foreign international organizations are not eligible to apply.

Am I eligible to apply for the ACSS Research Grants Program if I am from an Arab country but I am based outside the Arab region?

Yes and No. For individual grants the PI must be residing in the region. For team and collective grants, the PI and one co-investigator have to be residing in the Arab region. For institutional grants all members must be residing in the region.

Will the ACSS Research Grants Program only fund projects based on empirical research?

Yes. The ACSS Research Grants Program is interested in research projects that are grounded in empirical research, and their analysis and write up. However, this research program is not restricted to fieldwork but includes archival and textual analysis among other types of data collection.

Am I eligible to apply for an institutional grant if I am not the head of this organization?

Yes. Researchers applying for an institutional grant are not required to include the head of the organization or its board members in the project. All employees that work on full-time basis in the same institution are eligible to apply provided that they obtain an official letter from their institution's management confirming that the applying researcher(s) is/are permitted to work on this project under the institution's name and will be granted facilities.

Application Process

Do I need to complete the online application all at once?

No. When you start filling in the application, you will have the option of saving it as a draft. You may return to the online application as many times as necessary before the deadline. Be sure to save your work after you finish each section of the application – the online application will contain detailed instructions on how to do this. Once the application has been submitted, you will no longer be able to alter the information.

Can I ask for feedback on my application before submission?

Yes and no. The ACSS will provide general feedback on the completeness of your application and fulfilment of eligibility criteria. However, you will not be provided with feedback on the content and quality of your application and proposal.

If my application is unsuccessful, will I receive feedback as to why my proposal was not selected?

No. We are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Do I have to submit my budget in the form provided?

Yes. Project budgets may only be submitted using the **Project Budget Request Form** provided on the website. Applications submitted without using the required form will not be presented to the selection committee.

Do I have to submit the Project Timeline and Outputs Form provided?

Yes. This document may only be submitted using the **Project Timeline and Outputs Form** provided on the website. Applications submitted without using the required form will not be presented to the selection committee.

Do I need to provide written references?

Yes. You need to provide the name and contact details of one academic referee for academic researchers, and at least one written reference letter that you should submit with your application. Please submit your research proposal to your referee so that they can refer to your project in their letter.

What should the recommendation letter include?

The recommendation letter should be:

- a) Written by a referee and addressed to the Arab Council for the Social Sciences.
- b) Submitted on an official letterhead (if applicable).
- c) Should address the principal investigator's relevant research experience and educational background to undertake this project.

What should the official institutional letter include for institutional projects?

The official letter should be:

- a) Written by the head of the institution and addressed to the Arab Council for the Social Sciences.
- b) Submitted on the institution's official letterhead.

- c) Should include the names of the applying staff members and their positions at the institution, title of the project, requested budget and confirm that the applying researchers are permitted to work on this project under the institution's name and will be granted facilities.

Grant Allocations

What does the ACSS Research Grants Program grant cover? Conversely, what doesn't it cover?

Budgets may include: researcher(s) fees, fieldwork expenses (including accommodation away from the home location, travel and transportation related to the research, living expenses), honoraria for short-term consultants providing specific technical advice, and meetings/workshops costs related to the research, as well as purchase of research equipment, software, books, stationery and other supplies.

Under exceptional circumstances, the Selection Committee may consider the dedication of a portion of the grant, which is not more than the 30 percent of the total amount requested, to stipends or salary replacements for: a) principal investigator on an individual project; b) principal investigator and co-investigators on a team or collective project (30 percent for all salaries or stipends combined).

Institutional projects can dedicate a portion of the grant, which is not more than 10 percent of the total amount requested, to specific running costs and overheads. The principal investigator and co-investigators applying for an institutional grant, may request to allocate salaries or stipends (up to 30 percent for all salaries or stipends combined) in the project budget. The request to allocate a portion of the grant to salaries must be justified in the budget and will be examined by the committee and the ACSS on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, the ACSS and the Selection Committee reserve the right to determine whether the proposed salaries and running costs items are acceptable or not.

Budgets may not include: international travel expenses/ registration fees for conferences and workshops.

The budget should clearly indicate whether other sources of funding are already available or have been applied for and which items would be fully or partially covered by other sources. The Selection Committee and the ACSS staff will review each budget on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the total and detailed budget may not necessarily correspond to the one requested. Please review the Budget Request Form carefully for the full details of allowable expenses and instructions for filling out the form.

I am applying for multiple grants. Should I be awarded an RGP grant, can I also accept funding from other sources?

Yes, but you cannot accept funding from the ACSS and another organization for the same expenses covering the same research period. The ACSS will need a clear budget showing which expenses will be covered by which organization. The ACSS may contact the other funding organization in order to clarify the cost-sharing arrangements.

How will I know that my application is complete?

After you have successfully submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation email from the ACSS.

Grant Details

When will award announcements be made?

All applicants will receive notification emails by the end of March 2025.

What happens after I am selected for a grant?

You will receive a provisional Award Letter confirming your selection and, if applicable, requests for clarification and elaboration from the Selection Committee.

Do I have to attend the workshops and the Research Forum?

Yes. By submitting a grant application, you are expressing your commitment to attend 1) the Research Grants Program workshop coinciding with the Seventh ACSS Conference in 2025, 2) a progress workshop and 3) the Sixth ACSS Research Forum that will be held in Spring 2026, if your proposal receives provisional acceptance. All expenses of attending the workshop will be covered separately by the ACSS and will not come out of the grant budget.

Who will be invited from my team, collective and institution to the workshop and conference?

The ACSS will cover travel and accommodation expenses for two members of the research team, collective and institution: the principal investigator and one co-investigator only.

Do ACSS grants go directly to the researchers or are they channeled through an institution?

For individual researchers and teams, the ACSS will follow the researcher's wishes in this regard. For collectives and institutions, the ACSS will disburse money in the name of the collective or institution.

When applying as a member of a team, does each member of the team receive funds from the ACSS?

When applying for team project grant, the principal investigator receives all the funds. It is their responsibility to disburse the funds to the members of the team, and submit all receipts and reports. The PI is also responsible for the management and supervision of the entire grant including labor division among and rights and responsibilities of team members.

When applying as a member of a collective or institution, does each member of the collective and institution receive funds from the ACSS?

When applying for a collective or institutional grant, the ACSS will disburse the funds to the collective or institution. The collective and the institution are responsible for disbursing funds received from the ACSS to the researchers working on the funded project. It is the principal investigator's responsibility to submit all receipts and reports.

What other events organized by the ACSS am I expected to attend?

Only participation in the events mentioned in your award letter is required. However, the ACSS may organize panels at conferences and workshops that aim at providing researchers with platforms to discuss or disseminate their project results. Participation in such events would be strongly encouraged but not required.

Will the ACSS share the information submitted in the proposal with other bodies?

By submitting the application, you are granting the ACSS at its own discretion the right to share information with other institutions (including donor agencies) on your research title, objectives, location and the researchers' contact information. In case of compelling circumstances, exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.