אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا

هيئة البحث العِلميّ | Research Authority | רשות המחקר

ISF Grant Proposal
Format and Essential Tips

Research Program:

Up to 15 pages and not shorter than 10 pages.

Scientific Background:

What do we already know? (up to 5 p.)

1. Begin with a compelling overview of the rationale, emphasizing the novelty and significance of the research program. In 1-2 paragraphs, outline your research topic, why it's important and innovative, and how you intend to achieve it through your research design.
2. Integrative scientific background. *It's recommended to cite your work to establish yourself within the field.
3. Be sure to highlight the gaps in the current literature that your proposed research intends to fill. This will persuade the reader of the proposal's timeliness and necessity.

Research objectives and expected significance:

What do you want to do? (approx. 0.5-1.5 p.)

1. What is the main overarching aim of the project? The aim must be basic science.
2. What are the specific objectives? They stem from the main aim but are smaller and more specific in scope. Achieving the objectives will allow you to achieve the main aim.
3. Explain the significance of the proposed research in a separate paragraph (or more). Why should the project be funded? How will it impact the scientific community, future research, and real-life issues? What is novel and innovative about it?

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Detailed Description of the Proposed Research:

How will you do it? (approx. 2-5 p.)

1. This part is dedicated to the methodology and research design of the project.
2. Working hypothesis: Please provide a general working hypothesis that matches your primary aim and specific hypotheses for your objectives. (approx. 0.5 p.)
3. Research design and methods: (depending on the research field – empirical and experimental work requires a longer methods section)
    - Start with a clear overview paragraph outlining your research's course.
    - You must address the following stages: overall methodology, data collection, and analysis.
    - You must explain and narrate all your methodological choices: What are the project stages, and why? What is the selected method/s for the project, and why? How will this design and these methods help you achieve your objectives? What data sources do you include in the research, and why? What are the selection criteria? How will you analyse the data and interpret the results? Every decision in the process should be explained and justified.

Preliminary Results:

How can you tell that it's feasible? (approx. 1-2 p.)

This section shows the feasibility of the proposed project. Preliminary results can include the following: 1) specialized pilot study. 2)partial preliminary analysis of the data. 3) previous work that serves as a POC for specific methodological aspects of the proposal.

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The researcher's resources for conducting the research:

How can you tell that it's feasible? (approx. 0.5 p.)

This section demonstrates the research's feasibility, the PI's suitability, and the resources required to conduct it. Description of personnel and infrastructure –accessibility and availability, including materials and archives if necessary. Mastery of languages is essential for the research. (approx. 0.5-1 p.)

Expected results and pitfalls:

What will be the result? What can go wrong? How will you fix it? (approx. 0.5-1 p.)

This section explains that you fully understand the project. If the project succeeds, what will the results be? (It correlates with your objectives.) Describe the results, not the outcomes (like papers or conferences). It should also be mentioned if you plan a book or a database as an outcome. It would be best if you described the risks and potential pitfalls of the project, the solutions, and alternative pathways you will take in that case.

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Re-submission letter:

Up to 5 p.

1. Start by providing a general description or summary of the main changes you've made in the proposal, then explain them in detail.
2. Briefly address the specific requests of the reviewers; you can refer to the general description at the beginning of your letter.

Basic science declaration:

Approx. 0.5 p.

1. This document needs to include your primary aim and objectives.
2. Explain how this research will contribute to scientific knowledge. You must focus on theory rather than applicability.
3. Explain the basic science aspects of the proposal.
4. Finish with a statement that, due to all that is written in the statement, this is a basic science proposal.