



PHD PROGRAM

1. Background

The Government of Armenia and Phillip Morris International have agreed to establish cross-sectoral collaboration with academy, research institutes and local companies and establish Philip Morris R&D Center in Armenia.

The main goal of PhD Support Scheme Program is to support young researchers in Armenia. PhD Program is to support PhD students in their research and scientific projects in number of areas from any research institution or university of Armenia. Operations manual describes Program scope, eligibility criteria, application procedure, including evaluation and awarding.

2. PhD Support Scheme Program Overview

EIF will support projects undertaking innovation from the demonstration stage through to piloting, test-beds, systems validation in real world/working conditions. It targets technologies, research concepts and projects that imply possible deployment and application in PMI's products, processes and science.

Particularly, research proposals in the following areas are encouraged to apply:

- Data Science,
- Material Science,
- Industrial engineering,
- Electronic engineering,
- Power Management,
- Experimental Physics
- Mathematical modeling
- Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning
- Mechanical Engineering
- Sensing technology

The applicants must satisfy the following eligibility requirements for the PHD Program:

- Be a PHD student from a research institution or university in Armenia¹be in a process of applying.

¹ Including but not limited to Yerevan State University; Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi; National Polytechnic University of Armenia; Russian-Armenian University; Armenian National Agrarian University; European Regional Educational Academy of Armenia; A.I. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory (Yerevan Physics Institute); Scientific Research Institute of Energy; Center for the Advancement of Natural Discoveries using Light Emission; Life Sciences International Postgraduate Center; National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia; Research Laboratories and Centers, the Ministry of Agriculture; Vanadzor State University; National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia.

- Propose a research, which is in line with the scope of this Program and refers to the areas, mentioned above.

This fellowship provides funding only for the research works.

3. PhD Support Scheme Program Activities

Name of Key Activity Groups
PhD Support Scheme Program presented to PMI for approval.
Program approved.
Promotion plan and partnerships in place
Grants Announced
Info sessions Organized
Applications evaluated and winners selected
Contracting and disbursement
Monitoring

4. Program Announcement

Announcement will be distributed among IT community, Armenian scientists, students, startups, as well as via EIF web page and web pages of National Academy of Science and among its research institutions, disseminated through social networks (EIF Facebook page, etc.).

5. Submission of Applications

Applicant must submit the filled-in Application form (*Annex 1*) and CV before the deadline mentioned in the Announcement. Application Package should be submitted in English to the following e-mail address: phdprogram@eif.am.

6. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Selection committee will be established by EIF. The committee will make the decision based on the evaluation of application package against evaluation criteria as outlined in the table below.

Application Evaluation Criteria for	Does the proposal address the following questions?
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PHD Research proposals	
PhD Research Project Proposal (need addressed, scientific/technical objectives, R&D development)	Have project goals been well conceptualized and well presented? Why is the project needed? Are the gaps in scientific knowledge identified? and/or strong justifications for the current research study provided? What long-term intellectual and/or economic benefits can be derived from it? How does the project relate to research that has already been done in the area? What will it accomplish? How will the proposal affect the respective science? Will the results interest a meaningful audience or serve a particular group?
Impact of the Project (method of approach and main activities, outcomes of the project)	Is the outcome of the study clear? Are the results interpreted in light of proposed research question and existing literature? Will the methodology achieve the desired outcomes? Does the design permit the evaluation of achievement of project goals? Is the methodology practical and logical? Has the appropriate background research been done?
Applicant Background (background, experience, literature)	Has the applicant relevant education and background? Has the applicant identified relevant research and literature and accurately summarizes and integrated the information?
Implementation Plan (milestones, action steps and timetable for each milestone)	Have all the procedures been fully described? Are the action steps and the timetable realistic? Is the sequence for completion logical? Are the milestones clearly defined?

Each member of the selection committee will recommend the proposal according to the following scale:

<u>Recommend Funding</u>			<u>Consider Funding</u>			<u>Non-Meritorious</u>			
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

7. Selection Committee Members

Members of Selection Committee represent Universities (1 person from university), National Academy of Sciences (2-3 representatives), PMI (2 representatives as observers), EIF (1 representative). Based on the topic, EIF can also involve a specialist from a different research institutions/scientific community.

8. Award winner contracting

Based on the decision records contract is signed between EIF and award winner-PhD student. The contract describes the roles and responsibilities of each side also the terms and conditions of project's implementation. The contract annexes include project implementation timetable with agreed specific milestones to be accomplished in the duration of the award. Programs will be funded based on lump sum disbursement.

9. PHD Projects Reporting and Monitoring

Program Reporting: The grantee shall submit progress report on a monthly basis, describing the activities carried out. In addition to any reports that may be requested under program activities, the grantee shall submit the following reports:

Annual Work Plan: At the first month, the grantee shall submit an annual work plan, outlining activities under the contract and results to be achieved over the course of the year.

Final Report: The grantee shall submit the final performance report. The final performance report shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days after the expiration of the award and shall contain the following information:

1. An executive summary of the accomplishments and results achieved.
2. An overall description of the activities, major accomplishments and results achieved, including results for all the activities under the contract.
3. Final data for all indicators included in the Annual Work Plan of the contract.
4. A summary of problems/ obstacles encountered during the implementation, and how those obstacles were addressed and overcome if appropriate.
5. An assessment of performance in accomplishing the program's overall objectives.

All deliverables should be submitted in English.

ANNEX 1

Sample Application Form for PhD projects

I. Title Page

1. Research Project Title:
2. PhD student and Supervisor (CV or linkedin profile link):
3. Name and Contacts of the PhD student and Supervisor (provide email, phone):
4. Research Institution or educational establishment:
5. Do you have ongoing research grant from other program, if yes please specify:

II. Body of the Application

The body of the application shall include the following information:

1. Table of Contents listing all page numbers and attachments
2. Executive Summary
3. Background/Problem Statement(describe the stage of research)
4. Scientific/Technical Objectives
5. Research Project Description, list of published articles if any
6. Proposed Interventions/Technical Approach
7. Expected Impact, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators/Success Criteria which shall be measurable, Milestones
8. Duration of Activity
9. Relevant experiences of team members
10. Implementation Schedule

III. Signature Page