

General information

Statements above needs to be updated as follows:

- All grants are awarded at the discretion of POPSIG. Each applicant can only submit one entry per application round.
- Award is awarded up to 3 awardees under the MPOC-POPSIG Sustainability Research Project Award and 3 under the POPSIG-Desmet Student Research Project Award. Each awardee will be given a certificate by POPSIG and will be required to present at the POPSIG Design and Research Showcase. The decision from POPSIG is final.
- The awarded fund will be transferred to a recognised Research Management Centre (RMC) account of the awarded institution. Applicants are advised to inform their respective RMCs of their intention to apply for this bursary. This is to ensure that sufficient time is available for the respective RMCs to prepare an account if the bursary is awarded.
- The awarded fund will be disbursed to the awardees progressively based on project progress. The first 50% of the fund will be transferred to the awardee at the start of the project. This will be followed by the remaining 45% at the midway point of the project period, subject to review of project progress report prepared by the awardees. The final 5% of the budget will be disbursed upon the submission of the awardee's research paper. Awardees are required to submit the submitted research paper to POPSIG as the final report. The following shows the disbursement schedule:

Disbursement	Milestone
50% of total budget	Start of Project
45% of total budget	End of 3 rd Month (Awardees to submit progress report using POPSIG template)
5% of total budget	End of Project Period (Awardees to submit research paper to chosen journal)

- All funds awarded must be used for the purposes set out in the application submitted for the award. These purposes include **travel, maintenance, software subscription, material and supplies, professional services and data collection/procurement**. Wages of the principal investigator or costs to buy-out staff time will not be funded.
- Grants are not transferrable to individuals or organisations and must be spent within 6 months from the bursary award date.
- POPSIG reserves the right to withdraw, amend or otherwise modify support at any time without notice.
- Any terms and conditions or codes of conduct for third party organisations relevant to a grant must be adhered to.
- If funding is sought for a larger project component, the sub-project should be free-standing with its own objectives.

- Awardees must complete a journal submission to an internationally peer-reviewed journal of their choice by the end of the project period. Alternatively, awardees may consider submission to the Journal of Oil Palm, Environment and Health (JOPEH).
- Suppose the applicant has secured funding from other sources for the same project. In that case, a detail of such funding must be clearly presented in the application form (e.g., budget, duration, funding body, etc.).
- Award will be assigned based on the merits and quality of the submission and shall be at the sole discretion of POPSIG.
- POPSIG reserves the right to vary the proposed project budget applied.

Evaluation

An external panel of expert reviewers will assess the applications. Reviewers are asked to pay particular attention to the following aspects of an application when undertaking their review:

- The project's contribution to the advancement of the palm oil sector.
- The degree to which the project is innovative and original.
- The feasibility of the project within the time frame and the method used is appropriate and comprehensively demonstrated.
- Evidence of sufficient planning in terms of health and safety, ethical clearance and permissions.
- Awareness showed on the relevant environmental, social and cultural responsibilities and impacts of the project.
- Topics which include laboratory studies, simulation/computational studies, desktop reviews are welcomed. Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary topics are also encouraged.
- Justification of resources and the degree to which the budget is reasonable, appropriate and sufficiently detailed.
- The committee's decision is final, and the committee reserves the right not to award the bursary if no suitable entry was identified.

Deadline of submission

31 August 2023

Application

Please email the following documents to popsigmalaysia@gmail.com with "POPSIG Research Project Bursary" as the subject email.

1. Application form (including one-page CV and a copy of latest academic transcript as Appendices).
2. Two (2) referee statements (at least one must be the applicant's academic supervisor).

Other information

Please visit <https://www.icheme.org/palm-research-bursary>