

GUIDELINES FOR IUFOM PROACTIVE RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT SCHEME (PRESS)

1 Background

The Proactive Research Engagement Support Scheme (PRESS) was established in 2024 under the Internationalisation Unit, Faculty of Medicine (IUFOM). This term of reference (TOR) sets out the structure and principles of governance for the PRESS as well as its funding and fund disbursement processes.

2 Objectives

- a) The objectives of PRESS are to
 - i. To facilitate the establishment or reinforcement of the research / academic collaborations between the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya (FOM) and an identified Resource-Endowed academic/research institute (REI).
 - ii. To provide seed financial support for the junior / mid-career academicians of FOM to meet the members of the targeted REI for
 - a) showcasing their research
 - b) establishing mutually committed research collaboration
 - c) securing access to the research resources of the REI.
- b) Definition of Resource-Endowed academic/research institutes (REI):
 - i. It is a top 150 QS academic institution OR top 100 healthcare/research institutions according to SCImago Institutions Rankings: Research and Innovation Rankings 2024 (<https://www.scimagoir.com/rankings.php>), and the Ranking Web of World Research Centers (<https://research.webometrics.info/en/Asia>) in the following subject areas covered:
 - a) Biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology
 - b) Biomedical engineering
 - c) Medicine (including all the subcategories)
 - d) Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmaceuticals
 - e) Medical education
 - ii. It possesses ample research/academic resources (e.g. monetary funding, inbound student sources and advanced research/academic facilities)
 - iii. It has the potential to create scheme/program for research/academic resource sharing with external/international institutions (or intended to develop a new scheme/program with FOM).

Resources may include:

- a) research fundings
 - b) funds to support staff/student exchange/attachment
 - c) advanced facilities
- iv. It has a committed coordinator to facilitate the engagement of FOM with its institute
- c) Definition of FOM junior / mid-career academicians: Academicians with the rank below VK7 or DU56.

3 Fund Allocation

One (1) academic department or registered research centers/units of FOM shall be selected to receive the support fund each round. A maximum of RM15,000 shall be allocated for each sponsorship.

4 PRESS Application

4.1 Please prepare the application according to the form provided (Appendix 1)

4.2 Pre-requisite for the application of PRESS

4.2.1 The application must be initiated by a FOM department or FOM dean's office/RO-endorsed research/academic center/unit as a joint departmental/center/ unit effort.

- a) Each FOM department/center/unit may apply for a PRESS-funded program ONCE (1).
- b) The Head of Department/Center/Unit shall act as the PRESS program coordinator.

4.2.2 Prior engagement with the coordinator of the REI must be done by the Head of Department/Center/Unit to

- a) confirm the availability of the resources and resource-sharing scheme

- b) pre-match the academic/research expertise/interests of the participating Department/Center/Unit staffs to that of the REI academicians/researchers to maximize the success in the establishment of collaboration and securing resources.
- 4.3 Each PRESS application must contain a viable program that
- 4.3.1 focuses on facilitating the engagement of the FOM's junior/mid-career academicians/researchers with the members of the REI
 - 4.3.2 maximizes the chance of the FOM's junior/mid-career academicians/researchers to gain access to the resources of the REI, including
 - a) research funds
 - b) advanced research facilities
 - c) financial support for the attachment of the FOM researcher/academician/student to the REI
 - d) inbound student source
 - 4.3.3 detail the expected output, including but not limited to:
 - a) collaboration initiation by joint grant / program / award research application
 - b) application for resource-sharing programs at REI
 - c) placement for clinical / research attachment
 - d) access to research resources and advanced facilities
 - e) exchange of student/staff
 - f) joint paper
 - g) legal agreement (e.g. MOU/MOA)
- 4.4 There are no restrictions on the number of junior/mid-career academicians of the applying department/center/unit that can be included in a single PRESS program.
- 4.5 This scheme does not support research engagement activities:
- a) to non-REI
 - b) to REI that does not offer an active scheme/program for research resource sharing with external institutions
 - c) that are not initiated by the FOM departments/unit
 - d) that facilitate the engagement of senior staffs (VK7, DU56 and above) to REI
 - e) that does not maximize the chance of the FOM junior/mid-career academicians/researchers to gain access to the research resources of REI

- 4.6 Senior staff (VK7, DU56 and above) may be supported by this scheme if:
- the staff can justify that they are in dire need of support to revitalize their research
 - the staff plays a crucial/necessary coordination role in the engagement program for the junior staff (*only 1 senior staff is allowed)
- 4.7 The maximum amount of financial support for each PRESS program is RM15,000, which will cover the total expenses of all the participants(s) in the following areas:
- transportation expenses (including a return economy class air ticket if applicable) to the REI
 - accommodation and meals
- 4.8 PRESS applications must be submitted the completed application in softcopy and PDF format to iufom@um.edu.my (Appendix I contains the necessary information)

5 Reporting of PRESS Activity

Successful candidates must provide the following reports upon the completion of the PRESS program:

5.1 Within 2 weeks post-program: a summary report detailing the initial outcomes of the program (Appendix 3):

- Collaboration established (named potential collaborating PI, summary of collaboration, funding and student/staff exchange arrangements)
- Proposed MOU/MOA draft
- Proposed research grants
- Proposed joint programs or Student/staff exchange programs (brief description of content, source of funding and logistic arrangements)
- REI research resources committed to be opened to FOM visiting staffs
- Problems/Constraints

5.2 6 months post visit: 1 report detailing the mid-term output of the visit (Appendix 4, please provide proofs):

- Ongoing active collaboration
- MOU/MOA signed / in progress of signing
- Joint research grants applied and outcome of application
- Joint programs or Student/staff exchange programs established / in the process of establishment
- REI research resources accessed by FOM visiting staffs

5.3 12 months post visit: 1 report detailing the annual output of the visit (Appendix 5, please provide proofs):

- a) Ongoing active collaboration
- b) MOU/MOA signed
- c) Joint programs or Student/staff exchange programs established
- d) Total joint grant secured (joint grants parked in UM, joint grants parked at the REI and REI grants shared with FOM staffs)
- e) Total number of staff / student outbound to REI (under the sponsorship of REI)
- f) Improvement of research profile of each participating FOM staffs
 - i. Joint research grants secured and active (joint grants parked in UM, joint grants parked at the REI and REI grants shared with FOM staffs)
 - ii. REI research resources accessed
 - iii. Total number of outbound students / research team members
 - iv. Joint ISI paper published
 - v. Problems/Constraints