

Declaration of Time Commitments by Principal Investigators in RGC Grant Applications

Points to Note

As informed by the Research Grants Council (RGC), the following measures pertaining to declaration of time commitments by Principal Investigators (PIs) / Project Coordinators (PCs) will be implemented **starting from 2022/23**:

- (1) PIs / PCs would be required to declare updated time commitment for all on-going research projects irrespective of whether the projects are funded by University Grants Council (UGC) / RGC in the application for RGC funding schemes;
- (2) Two thresholds would be set, i.e., one for individual research projects and one for collaborative projects (as indicated below); and

Type of Research Projects	Threshold
Individual Research Projects (e.g. GRF, ECS and other individual research projects funded from sources other than UGC/RGC)	3
Collaborative Research Projects (e.g. AoE, TRS, CRF, RIF and other collaborative research projects funded from sources other than UGC/RGC)	2

- (3) PIs / PCs would be required to declare in the application form the overall amount of time spent on research in percentage terms and provide justifications on taking up more research projects for consideration by the relevant RGC Committees / Panels if the number of on-going projects being held by the PIs / PCs in any capacity exceeds the thresholds.

According to the RGC, the above measures aim to facilitate the RGC Committee / Panel Members' understanding of the PIs' overall time commitment in research and the existing criteria for assessing grant applications would not be changed. **PIs / PCs would not be debarred from applying for more RGC grants if the number of on-going RGC projects being held by them exceeds the thresholds.**

Grants Team
Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services

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Legend:

AoE: Areas of Excellence
CRF: Collaborative Research Fund
ECS: Early Career Scheme
GRF: General Research Fund
RIF: Research Impact Fund
TRS: Theme-based Research Scheme