FAQ

KSA University Research & Innovation Strategy

Contents

Week: November 17-21

1. **The template includes the university outcome 2015-2018. Lots of good things happened during 2019. Should we shift to 2016-2019 instead?**
   No. The information universities should provide in the template should <u>only include up to the year 2018.</u> It is important for universities to comply with this, so the international expert Review Committee assess the same years for all universities.

   After the Strategy submission and evaluation process, universities will have the opportunity to share their 2019 activities, but this will happen next year during 2020.

2. **Some universities (especially the recently started), require a little more time to communicate and develop a working model and scope. Is the 14th Dec. 2019 a fixed date or they have a little tolerance to submit after without affecting their total score?**
   The Deputyship for Research & Innovation (DRI) understands the large quantity of time and effort required to complete the Strategy Template in this short time period. DRI still expects universities to complete the Strategy to the best of their ability.

   <u>There is no room to submit Strategies late due to the strict timelines of the international expert Review Committee.</u>

3. **Can we add supporting material and supplements to the various sections to support our claims?**
   Supporting material and supplements are not allowed.

   After each section of the Strategy, there is an opportunity to give more detail. Any additional information should go there. For example, in 3.2 '<u>Other</u> Research Impact', 4.2 '<u>Other</u> Considerations', 4.3 '<u>Other</u> Research Targets'.

4. **What language should the strategy be submitted in?**
   The language of the Strategy should be English.

   The international expert Review Committee consists of a group of experts across multiple countries- and thus, English is the common language.

5. **How do I submit the strategy?**
   The Strategy must be submitted online on the Deputyship of Research & Innovation's website, located on the Ministry of Education's website.

   <u>Universities should not submit the strategy in any form such as PowerPoint or Microsoft Word.</u> Instead, universities will be expected to **only copy and paste their responses for each Strategy into open textboxes through an online form.**

6. **How do I get the data to fill in my strategy?**
   Please refer to the **'Strategy Instructions'** PDF document located here for detailed instructions:
   https://departments.moe.gov.sa/DRI/Pages/University-RD-strategy.aspx

7. **For Section 1.2: Disciplinary Strengths - How do I select my disciplinary strengths? Are they the high-level categories of the Frascati Manual, or the more detailed categories?**
Disciplinary Strengths are the <u>second-level classification</u> of the Fracati Manual.
   - Thus, disciplinary strengths **cannot be** the high-level disciplines such as 'Natural Sciences', 'Engineering and technology', or 'Social Sciences'
   - Disciplinary Strengths **should be** the lower-level disciplines such as 'Mathematics', 'Civil Engineering', 'History and archaeology', or 'Media and communications'

8. **For Section 4.2: Research Priorities - Can you explain more about what a Research Priority can and cannot be?**
A Research Priority should be aligned to your university's Disciplinary Strengths, but it does not have to be a Disciplinary Strength itself.

For example, a Research Priority can (a) encompass a range of disciplines- such as the Internet of Things, Water Desalination, or the Sustainability of XYZ. A Research Priority can be an (b) economic or societal contribution- such as contributing to specific regional priorities, or supporting research to increase knowledge in societal issues. A Research Priority can also simply be (c) an internal university objective to increase R&D in a certain area, or increase the type of R&D or innovation output, or even increase the internal capabilities of researchers and research staff to perform excellent research.

Universities are best fit to determine what to prioritize. The Review Committee will review each Priority based on <u>vitality and sustainability</u>. Please refer to the Evaluation document provided during the Workshop for more information on this.

9. **For Section 2.3.1: External Funding - Can I report funding from the RDO/DRI?**
Yes, RDO and DRI funding can be added to 'External Funding'. Please note that only funding provided up to the year 2018 (i.e., up to December 2018) is acceptable. 2019 data should not be provided.

Inquiries: RDStrategy@moe.gov.sa

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10. Page # 35 Is required to attach the general research orientation of the university or research priorities of the University both separately?

Supporting material and supplements are not recommended. After each section of the Strategy, there is an opportunity to give more detail. Any additional information should go there. For example, in 3.2 'Other Research Impact', 4.2 'Other Considerations', 4.3 'Other Research Targets'.

11. Page # 36 Is it required to attach specific research projects or attach research orientation in a specific area in a particular specialty in general?

Again supporting material or attachments are not recomended. This section is about your planned future activities, to achieve each Research Priority. For example if your priority is to increase R&D in a certain area, how will you achieve this. The future activities could include for example a)developing new collaborative PhD projects with industry, b) recruiting staff to work with local industry to identify their challenges c) developing staff training programmes to improve their research capacity.

12. In classifying the research discipline, if the study could undergo many disciplines, how can we count it, as it will be overlap?

In addition to highlighting disciplinary strengths, you can describe Interdisciplinary research strengths in section 1.2.P on page 10

13. What do you mean of Post-Doc? As in medical field there is a one year could post-doc, but in after specialty there is not. Could we consider as lob title assistant professor?

Post-Doc, is a generic term for Post-Doctoral research staff who have no teaching responsibilities. A postdoc is primarily a researcher who works under the supervision of a mentor as part of a larger research group. They conduct research, on either a pre-specified project or one of their own design, gain additional experience and training in research and publish that research.   An Assistant Professor would not be a post-doc as they have teaching responsibilities.

14. Regarding lab section 2.2.2 (Major research facilities and lab), do you mean that we should list all instruments are available in the lab) please clarify with examples?

No this should not be a list of equipment, but an example of what the major research lab can do. Such as: a) Soil mechanics laboratory - for testing 'soft' earth particulate materials, soils and granular materials b) High Performance Computing Suite to perform large-scale calculations and analysis in Engineering disciplines. c) Plant and crop growth facilities to enable studies in a range of model plants and crop species including rice, wheat.

15. Do you consider Who has a scholarship from Our university and continue their graduate studies as graduate students?

If the scholarship student has attained a first degree and now enrolled at your university on a Masters or PhD programme they are considered as a graduate student.

16. what does it mean by " Name of journals published by your university that... Is it the journals that are owned by our university? if so and we don't have any.. should we just type N/A?

Yes this relates to any publications owned by your university. If you don't own any please just type N/A or NONE

17. 3.1.1 Scientific Output (Number of Non-Scopus Publications (Articles & Reviews) do you mean publications in any other databases such as ISI?

Many Web-of Science (ISI) listed publications are also listed in Scopus. You will need to check that the publication is not also listed in Scopus, before you report it in this section. If this is the case then this could include publications from other publication databases.

18. will that be online as one document (the distributed template)?

The document will not be submitted as a single document. Universities should copy and paste responses into open textboxes on the online form which can be found of the Ministry of Education's website.

19. In case we can submit the filled template as whole document, should that be in PowerPoint or word?

The Strategy must be submitted online on the Deputyship of Research & Innovation's website, located on the Ministry of Education's website.

Universities should not submit the strategy in any form such as PowerPoint or Microsoft Word. Instead, universities will be expected to only copy and paste their responses for each Strategy into open textboxes through an online form.

20. Are the labs for undergraduates considered as research labs

If laboratories are used exclusively for teaching purposes they should not be listed. The university may plan to free labs up some of the time for research purposes during the period of the strategy and if this is the case, then the plan should be explained in the strategy.

21. Can we include the establishment of research labs, research groups, and research centers in the activities section?

Yes, establishing research labs, research groups and research centres may all be activities which will enable the University to achieve the plans set out in the strategy and they can therefore be included as planned activities.

22. about section # 4.3.1 Research Capabilities. Regarding the No. of fund and amount in millions. Shall we consider the funds that are going to be acquired in years 2020-2024 from

1. external,

2. internal and also

3. the upcoming MOE Institutional Funding according to the budget we have specified and assigned in section 4.2 " research priorities and associated activities". Or I have to consider only one of these 3 sources.

Universities should set targets for the number of grants and level of funding across all sources, including external grants, MoE institutional funding and internal funds as long as they support the research activities that the funds were designated for.