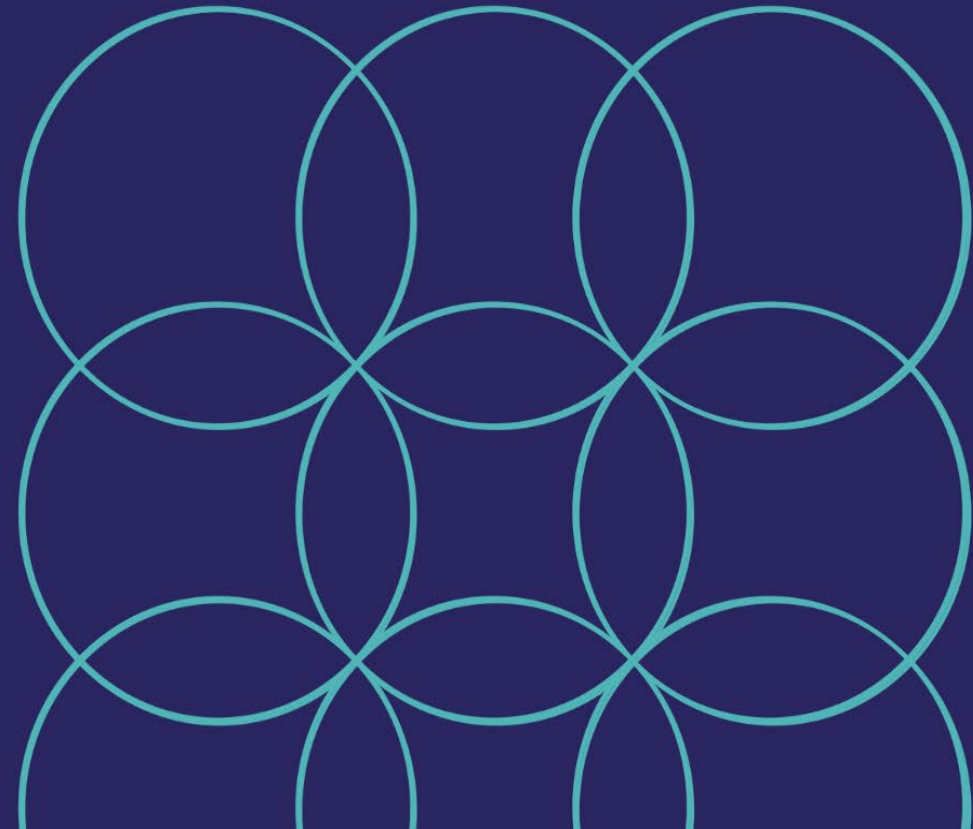


# ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

## Priority Social Science Research Grants

Monday 2 September 2024  
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm AEST

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Association of  
Asian Social Science  
Research Councils

## OBJECTIVES OF THE GRANT PROGRAM



### OBJECTIVE:

- To fund and support international collaboration among social science researchers in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on high-quality research on complex socio-economic issues of mutual interest.

### KEY GOALS:

- **Regional Collaboration:**
  - Forge meaningful collaborations between Indo-Pacific countries
  - Generate knowledge supporting evidence-based policy and innovation
- **Inclusive and Sustainable Development:**
  - Advance cooperation that promotes inclusive and sustainable growth in the region
- **Gender Equity and Social Inclusion:**
  - Prioritize increasing gender equity and social inclusion within research initiatives
- **Capacity Building:**
  - Supporting researchers in low and middle-income countries in the region

## BOOSTING SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



- **Funding:**
  - Supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) under the AASSREC's 'Boosting Social Sciences and their Contribution to Better Lives in the Indo-Pacific' program.
- **Partnership:**
  - AASSREC in collaboration with Global Development Network (GDN) and UNESCO
- **Program Overview:**
  - Mapping and understanding the current state and opportunities for social science - GDN's 'Doing Research Assessments'
  - Supporting high-priority research initiatives via strategic research grants
  - Connecting and empowering social science research organizations, councils, and funders
- **Includes:**
  - EMCR Grants – International Social Science Collaboration and Development Grants (AU \$5,750) – 2024 and 2025
  - AASSREC Mentoring Program
  - Working Policy Paper Series

## GRANT PERIOD AND FUNDING



### Grant Funding:

- **Maximum Amount:** \$57,750 AU
- Six (6) grants available

### Funding Duration:

- **Grant Period:** 12 months
- **Activity Timeline:** 1 November 2024 – 31 December 2025

### Research Focus:

- Enhance ongoing research projects lacking adequate funding
- Develop or pilot new collaborative research initiatives

## ELIGIBILITY



### **Collaboration Requirement:**

- Applications must include researchers from at least two different Asia-Pacific countries.

### **Principal Applicants must be:**

- A social science researcher
- Living and working in a low or middle-income Asia-Pacific country/territory.
- Employed by a research organization (university, research institute, or government research agency) with capacity to administer and support the proposed project.
- Either living in an AASSREC member country/territory OR collaborating with a researcher in an AASSREC member country/territory.

**List of AASSREC Members:** <https://aassrec.org/members/>

## AASSREC MEMBER COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES



### **AASSREC Member Requirement:**

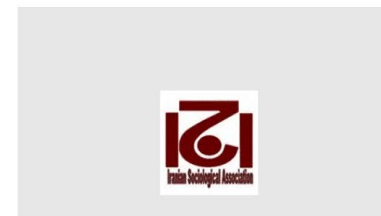
- Applications must have one applicant from an AASSREC Member country.
- Affiliation with AASSREC member is not required, but one of the applicant must be from an AASSREC Member country/territory.
- At present we have 15 members representing over 26 countries

**List of AASSREC Members:** <https://aassrec.org/members/>

# AASSREC MEMBERS

## Members

Members:



## AASSREC MEMBER COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES



- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- China
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Japan
- Kiribati
- Malaysia
- Marshall Islands
- New Zealand
- Nauru
- Niue
- Philippines
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Vietnam



## Principal Applicants: Who is NOT eligible?

- **Non-Social Scientists:**
  - Principal Applicants who are not social scientists.
  - Applications requesting funding for non-social science projects.
- **Location:**
  - Applicants not working in a low or middle-income Asia-Pacific country/territory.
  - Applicants not living and working in an AASSREC member country, AND not proposing collaboration with a researcher in an AASSREC member country/territory.
- **International Sanctions:**
  - Applicants living or working in countries subject to international sanctions that prohibit the transfer of funds.
- **Co-Applicant Eligibility:**
  - Individuals who do not meet the criteria for Principal Applicants may still participate as Co-Applicants.

## Responsibilities of Applicants

### **Principal Applicant Responsibilities:**

- Recipient of grant funds (via their employing institution)
- Responsible for project completion and fund acquittal
- Only one Principal Applicant per application

### **Co-Applicants:**

- Up to five co-applicants can be included
- Co-applicants receive a share of the grant as per the budget
- The Principal Applicant is responsible for grant distribution to co-applicants

## Priority Themes



### **Priority given to projects addressing the following themes:**

1. Advancing Gender Equality
2. Sustainability and Climate Change
3. State and Social Transformations
4. Indigenous Knowledge Systems
5. Intergenerational Inequality

### **Encouragement:**

- Regional perspectives on these themes are strongly encouraged but not essential

## Priority Researcher Categories



### Priority Researcher Categories:

- Women researchers
- People with disabilities
- Researchers from marginalized or disadvantaged groups
- Researchers from low and lower-middle-income countries
  
- Priority given to interdisciplinary projects
  
- Applications must describe how the Principal and Co-Applicants meet these categories

## Eligible Use of Grant Funds



### **Budget Guidelines:**

- Budgets must be reasonable, directly related to project activity, and primarily support the Principal Applicant

### **Eligible Expenses:**

- **Direct Research Expenses**
- **Salaries/Wages:** For research staff (including students, assistants, postdocs)
- **Travel & Accommodation:** Economy travel, modest accommodation, meals, travel allowances
- **Visa Costs:** For project-related travel
- **Publication/Dissemination:** Includes open access fees
- **Research Meetings:** Venue hire, catering relevant to project activities
- **Conference Attendance:** Only if directly relevant and a project participant is speaking
- **Field Research/Data Collection:** Includes survey prep, data coding
- **Communication/Translation:** Of research material
- **Software Licenses/Research Consumables:** Ethics applications
- **Advertising & Promotion:** Graphic design, photography, printed material

## Eligible Use of Grant Funds



### **Administrative Costs:**

- Max 13% of the budget for non-research related admin costs (clerical help, office expenses, etc.).

### **Important Notes:**

- Grant funds should not be used solely for travel, meetings, or conferences
- Majority of the budget must go toward direct research expenses
- Expenses must align with the agreed budget and grant agreement

## What Grant Funds Can't be Used For

### Capital Expenditure:

- Real estate, vehicles
- Building purchase or construction

### Financial Transactions:

- Collateral on mortgage financing
- Payment of interest charges

### Application & Non-Project Costs:

- Grant application preparation
- Rental costs for non-associated research

### Purchase Restrictions:

- Land, furniture
- Animals for research

### Retrospective & Recurrent Costs:

- Expenses or work incurred prior to application

### Academic & Personnel Costs:

- Teaching backfill/release costs

### Miscellaneous Restrictions:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Business-class travel
- Safe disposal of research waste

## Overview of the Grant Selection Process

- **Open, Competitive Process:**
  - Eligible applications considered through an open, competitive grant process.
- **Types of Research Supported:**
  - Both applied and fundamental research
- **Evaluation Panel:**
  - Applications evaluated by an international panel of experts
  - Applications ranked based on merit relative to assessment criteria
- **No Guarantee:**
  - Meeting assessment criteria does not guarantee grant approval
- **No Feedback or Appeal:**
  - AASSREC will not discuss application outcomes or provide feedback
  - No appeal mechanism for decisions.



## Assessment Criteria and Weighting

### **Research Track Record and Capacity (15%)**

- Includes academic qualifications, publications, successful research grants, conference presentations, research service activities, mentoring, community contributions, and teaching

### **Alignment with Strategic Priorities (25%)**

- Consistency with the priority themes

### **Quality and Feasibility of Proposed Activity (50%)**

- Scientific value and rigor
- Potential to establish sustainable regional collaborations
- Engagement with stakeholders (policy-makers, community groups, NGOs, private sector)
- Development of research capacity
- Dissemination and impact plans
- Budget assessment and value for money

### **Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Responsiveness (10%)**

- Consideration of GEDSI in objectives, design, and partnerships.

## Using GEDSI Markers in Applications



### **Purpose:**

- To identify and assess how well grant applications promote gender equality, social inclusion, and disability rights

### **Requirements:**

- Proposals should outline specific steps and considerations taken to address GEDSI objectives
- Applications should demonstrate proactive efforts to mitigate social barriers and promote equity
- Select a category for each GEDSI Marker

### **Categories for GEDSI Markers:**

- No Impact
- Low Impact
- Moderate Impact
- High Impact

## GEDSI Markers and Impact Levels

- **Gender Equality Marker:**
  - **No Impact:** No contribution to gender equality.
  - **Low Impact:** Awareness of gender inequalities; some sex-disaggregated data.
  - **Moderate Impact:** Gender-sensitive methods; engagement with women's groups.
  - **High Impact:** Gender equality as main outcome; leadership and partnership with a focus on inclusion.
- **Disability Inclusion Marker:**
  - **No Impact:** No contribution to disability inclusion.
  - **Low Impact:** Awareness of disability issues; disaggregated data.
  - **Moderate Impact:** Engages with disability groups; mitigates negative impacts.
  - **High Impact:** Disability rights-focused outcomes; inclusion of people with disabilities.
- **Social Inclusion Marker:**
  - **No Impact:** No contribution to social inclusion.
  - **Low Impact:** Awareness of barriers for marginalized groups.
  - **Moderate Impact:** Engages vulnerable groups; discusses impacts.
  - **High Impact:** Focus on rights of marginalized groups; strong inclusion practices.

## Preparing Your Application

- **Example of form in Grant Guidelines with word limits**
- **Principal Applicant's Responsibilities:**
  - Ensure completeness and accuracy of the application
  - Include all relevant information about co-applicants, including names, positions, institutions, qualifications, roles and responsibilities, and CV
- **Co-Applicants Information:**
  - Provide details on how each co-applicant will contribute to the project
  - Include information on co-applicants' priority researcher status

## Required Attachments



- **Curriculum Vitae (CVs):** Required for the Principal Applicant and ALL co-applicants
- **Letter of Support:** From the Principal Applicant's institution, confirming:
  - Employment or affiliation with the institution
  - Institutional support for the project, including infrastructure availability
  - Letter must be on official letterhead and signed by a delegated authority

## Timeline of Grant Program

### Activity:

Applications Open

Closing Date for Applications

Assessment of Applications

Notification of Successful Applicants

Notification of Unsuccessful Applicants

Negotiation of Grant Awards

Grant Activity Commence

Grant Duration

### Timeline:

1 August 2024

12 September 2024

September/October 2024

October 2024

October 2024

October 2024

On or after 1 November 2024

12 months (1 Nov 2024 – 31 Dec 2025)

## Application Process Overview



- **Submission Deadline:** 11:45 pm AEST, 12 September 2024
- **Submission Method:** Online application portal at <https://portal.aassrec.org>
- **Language Requirement:** Applications must be completed in English
- **Acknowledgment:** Applicants will receive an email acknowledgment upon submission

# Successful Grant Applications



## **The Grant Agreement:**

- AASSREC will enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the successful applicant's institution/organisation
- Both AASSREC and the grant recipient must sign the agreement before funds are released
- Do not commence project activities or make financial commitments before the grant agreement is executed

## **Country Approvals:**

- Grant recipients must obtain all required permissions and clearances from the appropriate government authorities of the countries in which work under the Project is being performed.
- AASSREC reserves the right to refuse payment of grants or make alternative arrangements if the country approval process experiences significant delay.



## Payment Structure



- **Payment Distribution:**
  - **50%** on execution of the grant agreement
  - **40%** after six months, upon acceptance of a satisfactory progress report
  - **10%** on acceptance of the final report
- **Payment Method:** Preferably to the institution/organisation of the Principal Applicant on receipt of an invoice

## Responsibilities of Grant Recipients

- **Ethical Approvals and Reporting:** Obtain necessary approvals from local authorities and immediately report any ethical concerns, including misconduct or breaches of ethical standards
- **Submit Reports:** Provide progress and final reports as per the grant agreement
- **Meet Objectives:** Adhere to the agreed objectives efficiently and effectively
- **Record Keeping and Compliance:** Maintain accurate records and comply with all reporting and acquittal requirements
- **Administrative Responsibilities:** Manage administrative tasks and insurance for the project
- **Legal Compliance:** Ensure compliance with all applicable domestic and international laws

## Reporting Requirements

- **Progress Report:** Due six months after the start of the project
- **Final Report:** Due within two months after project completion

### Reports should include:

- Progress against agreed activities and outcomes
- Objectives of the project and details of international visits/meetings
- A description of how ethical standards were maintained
- Project outcomes and research findings
- Contributions of participants directly related to the grant activity
- Progress in international collaboration more generally
- Directions for future research
- A detailed financial statement (final report only)
- Compliance with IDRC's Open Access Policy and Open Data Statement of Principles

## Questions and Technical Support



**Support Available:** For technical difficulties or questions during the application period.

### Contact Information:

- **Phone:** +(61) 2 6249 1788
- **Email:** [info@aassrec.org](mailto:info@aassrec.org)

**Grant Guidelines:** Please refer to these before submitting an application

**Further information:** <https://aassrec.org/priority-social-science-grants/>

**Any Questions?**